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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether it is directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Spain.

PROGRAMME FOR THE FUTURE.

MADRID, December 23.—The *Epoca* says when the Carlist insurrection is suppressed, an efficient army will be maintained in Cuba as a measure of precaution, and that heavy guns will be placed on the coast. At the same time Spain will propose to the United States a new and mutually advantageous treaty of commerce. Subscriptions have already been opened to defray the cost of manufacturing heavy guns for the defense of Cuba.

India.

BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS NEEDED IN MALACCA.

SINGAPORE, December 23.—The British troops in Malacca have arrived before Kintap, where the Maharajahs, Ismail and Lela, oppose them with considerable force. Gen. Cairborne has asked for reinforcements.

INSURRECTION IN TOORKISTAN SUSPENDED.

LONDON, December 23.—The *Invalide Russe* states that emissaries from Khokand had incited the tribes subject to Russia in the neighborhood of Urapete, Toorkistan, to revolt. The Russian troops attacked them and were at first repulsed, but subsequently obtained a victory. Three hundred insurgents were killed in one engagement. The insurrection is now suspended.

A. E. GUELPH AT CALCUTTA.

LONDON, December 23.—The Prince of Wales landed at Calcutta to-day, and had a magnificent reception.

England.

ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, December 23.—The Gordon elected to Parliament, yesterday, was Sir Alexander Gordon, Conservative, for East Aberdeenshire, not Lord Advocate Gordon for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities.

THE GREAT POWERS AND INTERVENTION IN TURKISH AFFAIRS.

LONDON, December 24.—A telegram from Vienna to the *Times* states that the note of the Northern Powers, containing proposals for reforms in Turkey, is about to be sent to the Governments of France, Great Britain and Italy, with an invitation to join in their support. The *Times*, in a leading article, says: "We are tempted to urge that the cause of the treaty of Paris forbidding intervention between the Sultan and his subjects be rescinded, that the Powers may be permitted to intervene if necessary for the common interests and that Turkey be considered as needing the tutelage of Europe."

THE ATTITUDE OF MONTENEGRO.

LONDON, December 24.—A Berlin dispatch to the *Times* says the Prince of Montenegro has concluded negotiations for a loan of a million dollars, which the Slavonians believe is guaranteed by Russia. It is also stated that an American agent at Cettigne has engaged to supply the Prince with cannon and rifles. The Montenegrin official journal publishes an article warmly praising the insurgents in Herzegovina. The *Times'* correspondent remarks that the attitude of Montenegro is that the Government has been led to hope it will shortly be allowed to interfere.

Turkey.

THE SULTAN ARMING HIS FORCES—CONSPIRACY AGAINST CHRISTIANS.

VIENNA, December 23.—The *Political Correspondence* (newspaper) reports the Sultan spending all his available money in hastily arming forces on sea and land. Ship and cannon have been ordered.

A conspiracy against the Christians in Turkey has been discovered, and thirty-six Turks implicated have been arrested.

Egypt.

FURTHER SALE OF SHARES IN THE SUEZ CANAL CONTEMPLATED—ENGLAND AND EGYPT THE BIDDERS.

CAIRO, December 23.—It is rumored that the Khedive is negotiating for the sale of Egypt's founder's shares in the Suez Canal. The Government of Great Britain and M. De Lesseps, representing a combination of French capital, are bidders. The latter has offered $9,000,000 for the shares.

Germany.

THE PROPOSED REFORMS IN TURKEY.

BERLIN, December 23.—It is stated that the principal feature of the Great Powers' proposition relates to reforms in Turkey is, that ambassadors of neutral powers at Constantinople shall have permanent control in the execution of the reforms in the provinces.

France.

APPORTIONMENT OF DEPUTIES.

PARIS, December 23.—In the Assembly to-day, the electoral districts bill was under consideration. An amendment prepared by the Government was adopted, by which Paris will return to the Lower Chamber twenty deputies, instead of twenty-five, and Lyons six instead of eight, as at present. This reduction is effected by the apportioning of one deputy to each 100,000 of population in those cities, instead of one deputy to each arrondissement containing under 100,000 inhabitants, and two deputies to arrondissements containing more than 100,000, as in the rest of France. The Left are indignant over the introduction and adoption of the amendment.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, December 23.—Arrived—The steamship Dakota, from New York.

Failure of the Bank of Brandywine.

WEST CHESTER, Pa., December 23.—The Bank of Brandywine is now in the hands of the assignee, Wm. H. Jeffries, Cashier of the National Bank of Chester County, Pa.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—In the Tennessee, the Ohio, Upper Missippi and Lower Missouri Valleys, falling barometer, southeast to northeast winds, colder, cloudy and rainy weather, followed in the Ohio Valley by clearing, colder weather.

The earthquake of Wednesday night was felt in Washington, D. C., and Gordonsville, Va.

The assets of the Providence Tool Company are stated at $4,145,000; liabilities $2,783,000.

At Montreal work has been found for 1,500 extra men on city improvements, at seven cents an hour.

Frank Hartman, a painter, was killed at Indianapolis, yesterday, by the falling of a scaffold on which he was at work.

The Trustees of Princeton College sustain the faculty in their action against secret societies, and refuse to change the law.

Eleven business houses in Red Oak, Iowa, were destroyed by incendiary fire yesterday, and a number of others were damaged. Loss $65,000, with partial insurance.

Mardigras day, February 9th, is to be celebrated with great pomp and circumstance in Louisville. There will be a grand street parade during the day and a bal masque at night.

An order issued by Adjutant General Latta announces that the general inspection of the militia of this State will take place during the months of April and May, next year, instead of in the fall.

The Cincinnatians propose to inaugurate the Centennial year by illuminations, ringing of all the bells in the city, firing of cannon, and a grand military and civic procession, at midnight on New Year's eve.

The committee to examine the affairs of the Providence, R. I., Tool Company, it is understood, will recommend an extension of thirty-six months from January 1, semi-annual payments, beginning next July, and interest at seven per cent., also payable semi-annually.

The Louisville Grand Jury has been investigating bets on the late city election, and has found indictments against ten persons, two of them being members of Council. Under the law all money won on elections can be confiscated for the benefit of the school fund.

A courier has arrived at San Diego from San Rafael, the capital of Lower California, reporting that the revolutionists had attacked the place, killed Gov. Villagerana and twenty-nine others, and had possession of everything. The report needs confirmation, but is considered highly probable by those familiar with affairs in that country.

A dispatch from San Diego confirms the reports of anarchy in Sonora, where a revolution is in progress. The Yoqui Indians are in revolt. Governor Pesquiera has levied a special tax to carry on the war. The revolutionary party are reported about to invade Sinaloa. Business is prostrated. No further demonstrations have been made by the banditti at Campo. The presence of a posse from San Diego keeps them temporarily quiet, but they threaten revenge for the shooting and hanging of their comrades in the recent raid. Cruz Lopez is in command since the death of Chavez. The Mexicans on the border, with but few exceptions, are in league with the banditti. A cavalry company will leave San Francisco to-day for San Diego.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Murders in Missouri and Kansas.

ST. LOUIS, December 23.—At Boonsboro, Howard county, Missouri, James Thorne quarrelled with a man named Mitchell, on Saturday last, and was struck by him on the head with a club and killed.

Near Junction City, Kansas, on Tuesday, George Hunter, colored, and George Davidson, white, had an altercation about their cattle, and Hunter shot and killed Davidson.

Suicide at Oscoda, Mich.

DETROIT, MICH., December 23.—J. Falbro, a well known lumber inspector of Oscoda, Mich., committed suicide to-day with a pistol. No cause is known for the act.

Confession of an Incendiary.

CHICAGO, December 23.—On the 13th of this month a man giving the name of Thomas Carroll, of Dunkirk, New York, confessed to officers here that in June, 1874, he set fire to Vanderwort's planing mill in Dunkirk. The mill was entirely destroyed, and the watchman, McCarthy, was so badly burned that he died shortly after. Carroll fled, and has been here for some time. When he confessed he was put in jail here, and examined by a physician, who pronounced him sane. The authorities of Dunkirk were telegraphed the state of the case, and substantiated the story of Carroll, whom they have sent for. He will accordingly leave for Dunkirk tonight in company with the Sheriff of that place. He has made two attempts to commit suicide since he was imprisoned.

Attempt to Break Jail at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 23.—A number of prisoners confined in the city jail made an attempt to escape this morning. Several negroes who were confined in the rear part of the building had been committing depredations by breaking window glass, furniture, &c., and behaving badly in a general way. Last night several of them were placed in a cell to themselves, and all went quietly until about four o'clock this morning, when a loud howl was raised. Upon repairing to the scene the turnkey discovered that the rascals had set fire to the mattresses on which they had slept, with the evident purpose of making their escape by overpowering the jail official when he should open the door to let them out. The bedding burned rapidly, and in a few seconds the cell was dense with smoke and flame, almost suffocating those within. The attendant obtained assistance as soon as possible, and rescued the negroes from their perilous position, but not until some of them were almost strangled to death with smoke. Some of the men were unable to stand when rescued, and a few minutes more would have settled their deaths. The prisoners, when taken away from the fire, were very willing to be locked up anywhere, and made no effort to escape.

Colored Man Shot at Cairo.

CAIRO, December 23.—Alphonzo Reno, a colored roustabout on the steamer Fannie Lewis, was shot to-day by another negro, name unknown, who escaped after the shooting. The latter was over a game of cards. Reno's wounds are dangerous.

Lottery Swindle Squelched—Counterfeiters Sentenced.

ST. LOUIS, December 23.—Under instructions from Judge Knight, of the Circuit Court, to-day, Chief of Police McDonough notified the managers of the Missouri State Lottery that no further selling of tickets or drawings would be permitted after to-day.

A. W. Hubbard, H. F. Edwards and George W. Matone, counterfeiters, were sentenced by the United States District Court to five years in the penitentiary.

A Pittsburgher Killed at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 23.—Charles Wilson, fireman on the Ohio river steamer Mary Ann, was arrested here to-night on a charge of murder. It is alleged that during last Wednesday night Wilson and a deck hand, Edward Everson, of Pittsburgh, had an altercation, and were subsequently made friends by the efforts of the crew. Later in the same night Wilson, it is alleged, procured a cutlass, and attacking Everson suddenly, inflicted a wound from which he died to-day.

CASUALTIES.

Collision on a Kentucky Railroad.

LOUISVILLE, December 23.—A passenger train on the Louisville and Nashville and Great Southern Railroad ran into the rear end of a freight train of the same company, this morning, near Short Line Junction. The morning was dark, the feight had out no signals, and was not seen by the passenger engineer in time to prevent telescoping. Frank Moore, engineer of the passenger train, was seriously injured on the head, besides having his thigh and knee broken. One of the firemen was slightly hurt. All the passengers escaped injury. The engine and a number of freight cars were badly wrecked.

The Boston Gas Explosion—Only Five Lives Lost

BOSTON, December 23.—No further discoveries have been made of bodies at the scene of the gas explosion last night, and as several persons reported missing have appeared, it is probable that the actual number of lives lost will be narrowed down to five. One or two of the wounded may die.

LATER.—The bodies of two more victims of the explosion last night were recovered from the water to-day—John Kells and George Elwell.

FIRE RECORD.

New York—$40,000.

NEW YORK, December 23.—The fire this morning, in buildings Nos. 40 and 42 Vesey street, caused losses amounting to $40,000, distributed among a number of occupants, who are mostly insured.

The Moody and Sankey Services Yesterday.

PHILADELPHIA, December 23.—The services at the prayer meeting of Moody and Sankey were well attended. After singing and prayer, Mr. Moody addressed the congregation on the subject of prayer, stating that we must ask in our prayers in Christ's name and for His sake, and not our own. The speaker quoted the text where Christ promised His Disciples that what they asked of the Father "in my name He will grant it you," and that in prayers that injunction should be followed. Furthermore, prayer should be for the glory of God, and not our own. Many mothers are praying for their sons, not for the glory of God, but that she may have more peace at home. The speaker, after enforcing these ideas in a variety of ways, concluded by a strong appeal to the congregation relative to the high importance of prayer and the necessity of its conditions enumerated above. The congregation then sang "Guide me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah," and after prayer were dismissed.

The services at the depot church to-night had special reference to the Christmas season, it having been determined upon to hold no meetings on to-morrow or Saturday evening. About eight thousand persons were present. There was no perceptible falling off in interest. Mr. Moody read from the second chapter of Luke the story of Bethlehem. Mr. Sankey sang impressively "The Ninety and Nine," after which Mr. Moody delivered the discourse, his text being taken from the tenth verse of the chapter above alluded to: "For behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy." He preached a very effective sermon, urging upon his hearers the necessity of a belief in these tidings and the acceptance of the great Christmas gift given by God in the person His only Son, the Savior. The inquiry rooms, after the meeting, were unusually well filled.

A Very Neat Little Swindle in Boston.

BOSTON, December 23.—A company organized six months ago as the Youngham Manufacturing Company, with an alleged capital stock of $100,000, has gone into bankruptcy with liabilities of $150,000 and no assets, $150,000 of the liabilities being in notes, the money obtained upon which was used by the officers for private purposes. Not a dollar of the capital was ever paid in. Chales M. Strauss, clerk of the company, has been indicted for purjury.

Taxed Sald to be in Havana.

HAVANA, December 23.—A report is current that William M. Tweed arrived here last Tuesday on a schooner. Several New Yorkers, who know him by sight, say they saw him yesterday and to-day in different parts of the city.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

Speaker Kerr will spend the holiday recess in Philadelphia.

George H. Pendleton, of Ohio, attended a banquet of the New England Society of Charleston, S. C., on Wednesday evening.

Ex-Congressman A. C. Wilder, of Kansas, died in San Francisco yesterday morning. Mr. Wilder was at one time Mayor of Rochester, N. Y.

John Brugger & Son, stocking manufacturers of Manchester, New Hampshire, are reported failed. Their liabilities are said to be $100,000; assets $20,000.

Two sons of John C. Sidebotham, of Des Moines, Iowa, aged respectively eleven and fourteen years, broke through the ice yesterday and were drowned.

A Detroit *Tribune* special from Travers City, Mich., announces the death, at East Bay, Grand Traverse county, of Henry Silfes, an old pioneer, who was the first white person born in Cincinnati. He was a resident of Detroit at the time of Hull's surrender.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Resignation of Col. Reisinger.

C. Walborn Takes His Place

LEAD SEALS VS. SEAL LOCKS.

Model of Suez Canal to be Shown at the Centennial by M. De Lesseps.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1875.

Resignation of Col. Reisinger.

Col. Reisinger, of Meadville, special agent of the Treasury, has sent his resignation to the Secretary of the Treasury, to take effect during the latter part of January. The Secretary has designated C. Walborn, of Philadelphia, to fill the vacancy, to take effect upon the retirement of Mr. Reisinger. The resignation of the latter gentleman was necessitated by the pressure of private interests. Mr. Walborn will be assigned to duty at Philadelphia in connection with the Centennial.

Lead Seals and Their Advantages.

A letter received at the Treasury Department, referring to the use of lead seals in place of the seal lock, speaks of the change as eminently successful. The districts of Detroit, Port Huron, Buffalo and the Suspension Bridge, on the northern frontier, and the great through bonded routes from Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Portland, all feel the change as durable and advantageous. It relieves railroad companies of a large burden of expense.

Model of Sues Canal for the Centennial.

It is learned here through an official recently returned from Europe that the eminent French engineer, Ferdinand De Lesseps, the projecter of the maritime canal at Suez, has in contemplation the exhibition at the Centennial of an elaborate, artistic and graduated model of the canal. It is learned that the model will not only exhibit the topographical features of the canal and the desert region immediately contiguous, but will also illustrate the various mechanical appliances used in the excavation and construction of the great work. Through the region traversed by the canal may still be seen the remains of one of those ancient artificial water courses for trade and irrigation constructed by the Pharohs. The region is also prominently identified with Biblical history. The wanderings of the Israelites in the Wilderness was through this same section, and the names associated with these celebrated peregrinations are still to be met with at points along the canal and near by. M. Ferdinand De Lesseps' contribution to the Centennial will, therefore, possess interest and instruction not only to engineers, merchants and commercial men, but to Biblical students.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1875.

A DAMAGING REPORT EXPECTED.

Some time ago a commission, of which Commissioner of Internal Revenue Pratt was made Chairman, was appointed by Secretary Bristow to examine into the mode of the administration of the public business in the offices of the Second Comptroller and Third Auditor of the Treasury. The immediate cause which constrained the appointment of the commission was the payment of the fraudulent log claim to one Witkoski, the papers upon which the payment was made having passed through both theoffices under investigation. A good deal of testimony was taken, and in addition the research involved an examination of the books and papers of both offices for years back. The report is now being prepared, and will be submitted to Secretary Bristow some time this week. It is understood that it is quite a damaging document, and while no direct charge of incompetency is made against Comptroller Brodhead or Third Auditor Rutherford, the statement is made that there has been an almost inexcusable looseness among the officers holding subordinate places. The effect of the report will no doubt result in the reorganization of the several divisions and a change of the heads now in charge of the same.

GRANT NOT IN FAVOR OF PARDONING JOYCE.

Attorney General Pierrepont says the President does not favor the pardoning of Joyce, convicted in St. Louis.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 23, 1875.

THE QUESTION OF RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

The *Evening Post* says the committee representing the merchants of this city in the matter of freight rates, which has lately excited so much attention, had a conference this morning with Vice President William H. Vanderbilt, of the New York Central Railroad. Wm. E. Dodge, Chairman, said that while they were now met to thank the railroads for what they had done in the matter, they wished to have it distinctly understood that they had no sympathy with the low prices which the railroads had been obliged to adopt. They would have been more gratified if Boston rates had been raised. It was for the interest of the merchants that the railroads should secure a fair compensation in order that the latter might pay reasonable dividends, and be able to expend the money for the improvement of their facilities. Mr. Vanderbilt thanked the merchants for their expressions of good feeling, and then read a letter from Col. Scott, of the Pennsylvania road, giving the accomplished settlement of the rates as the reason for his non-attendance at this conference. He supposed the absence of Mr. Blanchard, of the Erie road, was due to the same reason.

TARIFF FROM PHILADELPHIA TO CHICAGO.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged their reduced freight rates. The rate from Philadelphia to Chicago is to be for first class freight, twenty-seven cents per 100 pounds; second class, twenty-three, and third and fourth classes, eighteen; fifth class, fourteen. The new rate to St. Louis is: First class, thirty-eight cents; second class, thirty-two; third class, twenty-six; fourth class, twenty-six; fifth class, twenty-one.

THE TOWEN-KINSELLA SUIT ENDED.

The trial of Henry C. Bowen against the Brooklyn *Eagle*, for $100,000 damages for libel, was concluded this evening. Mr. Beach, counsel for the defense, occupied up to 2:30 in his summing up, and Mr. Fullerton, for the plaintiff, spoke until 5 o'clock. Judge Reynolds then charged the jury in a fifteen minute address, and informed them that they might bring in a sealed verdict.

THE TWEED JURY.

The names of the Tweed "struck" jury, twenty four in number, are as follows: Messrs. George H. Beerd, Abner W. Colgate, John J. Cisco, Samuel D. Davies, William P. Douglas, Amos R. Eno, Joseph S. Lowery, John H. Coswell, Ezra M. Kingsley, Richard Arnold, Charles Collins, Robert K. Davis, John Taylor Johnston, Emil Olbermann, Julius W. Catlin, Levi P. Morton, Gordon Norris, Arthur P. Peabody, George Cabot Ward Francis, E. Thurber, Anson G. P. Stokes, Robert Lennox Kennedy and P. Hall.

The Reduced Freight Rates.

PHILADELPHIA, December 23.—The following are the reduced freight rates which went into effect on the Pennsylvania Railroad to-day:

	1st class.	2d class.	3d class.	4th class.	5th class.
Chicago.....	27c	23c	18c	18c	14c
St. Louis.....	32	28	23	23	18
Cincinnati...	27	23	18	18	14

The reduction is about fifty per cent.

The recent mild weather has had the effect of raising the Delaware river sufficiently high to move the ice. A gorge formed at Narrowsburg yesterday afternoon, damming the water, which was last evening rising rapidly. This is one of the places where the ice gorge formed last winter, which resulted so disastrously to Port Jarvis.

Harvard has accepted Yale's challenge for an eight oared coxswain four mile race.

The Joyous Holiday Time.

December is the holiday month. Set between Thanksgiving day and New Year's, it includes Forefathers' day and Christmas, and is twice blessed by the great festival whose celebration, religious and social, circles the globe. All these contribute to the treasures that make the season's joy. The Christmas greens make a forest of the markets and flower stores, and the streets are the forest beneath its blossoms. People may groan over the hard times, yet gifts are still tokens of remembrance and affection, even though they be of inferior value. But while you are thinking of your own household treasures, gather the children inside the battered toys and patch them up for the poor children to whom Christmas is so likely to be but a name. Forget not the lesson of these, and the benediction of the poor will sweeten the whole twelvemonth.

Christmas in St. Peter's Church.

Christmas Eve. Services will be held this evening in St. Peter's Church at ¼ to seven. There will be singing of carols, public catechising of children and Christmas tree. The church is beautifully trimmed by the earnest people of the congregation.

There will be service in St. Peter's Church, corner of Grant and Diamond streets, on Christmas day at ¼ to 11 o'clock A. M. The Rector, Rev. Dr. Spaulding, will officiate, and there will be administration of Holy Communion.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Regular Meeting—Little Business Transacted.

Allegheny Councils held a regular meeting last evening. In the

SELECT BRANCH

considerable time was consumed in gathering a quorum.

The Citizens' Committee, appointed at the meeting of Tuesday night, discussed with this branch the subject of providing work for the indigent, but no action was taken in the matter.

The following ordinances were considered: For opening Superior Run avenue, passed; ordinance appointing viewers to assess damages and benefits for the regrading and paving of McClure avenue, passed; for payment of $4,196 88 to Johnson & Wilhelm by account of construction of stone walls on Howard street, passed; for the grading of Preble avenue, passed.

Mr. Callery suggested that some action be taken in regard to the petition of Citizen's Committee in regard to furnishing work to the indigent. He pointed out several places where men could be employed to great advantage.

Mr. Hartman wanted the city's representatives in the Legislature instructed to oppose the passage of a modified Penn avenue act for Allegheny. He saw in the passage of such an act a panacea for all the financial ills under which the city was laboring. No action was taken on the suggestion.

Mr. Smith presented a resolution for the transfer of $6,800 from certain funds to the water appropriation. Agreed to.

Mr. S. also presented a resolution that the Street Commissioners be instructed to employ as many of the poor as possible to clean the streets. The resolution was adopted.

Common Council business was all concurred in, after which the printing ordinance as amended by Select Council was taken up and passed.

Adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH.

Mr. Golden presented a resolution directing the Water Committee to grant to Jose for the occupation of the wharf for a permanent business, between School and Chestnut streets, and directing that as soon as present leases expire all obstructions shall be removed. Agreed to.

Business from Select Council was taken up and all concurred in except the ordinance requiring property holders to connect with public sewers.

Mr. Drum presented the report of the Heating Committee recommending the adoption of an ordinance creating the office of a City Physician. The report was received and the ordinance passed.

Mayor Phillips, from a committee appointed by the citizens' meeting, introduced the committee, when Mr. McCreery detailed the wishes of the committee in regard to Councils furnishing work to indigent citizens. He urged strongly that the wishes of the committee be complied with.

Commissioners Kroutz urged the petition on the ground that when work was furnished it would be found that not more than one-fourth of the men expected would be found wanting work. Those who were really deserving would be benefitted, while frauds would be estopped from prowling around the street on mischief bent.

Mr. John Dean followed in a similar vein. He also thought that some delinquent taxpayers would be glad to work out their taxes if allowed.

Mr. Golden moved the appointment of a committee in conjunction with the City Solicitor to confer with the Citizens' Committee. Agreed to, and Messrs. Price, Beadell, Stone, Cochran and Sholes were made the committee.

Mr. Golden offer a resolution for the transfer of certain funds to a different appropriation. Agreed to.

The amount was $7,000, and is added to the Street appropriation.

Adjourned.

OUR THOROUGHFARES.

Meeting of the Street Committee—About Tramps—Contracts Let.

The Street Committee of Pittsburgh Councils held a special meeting last evening, Mr. Thomson presiding.

TRAMPS.

The first business taken up was the report of the committee appointed by Councils to devise means for ridding the city of tramps, which was referred by Select Council to the committee. It will be remembered that it recommended that a portion of the funds in the street appropriation be set apart for the payment of the boarding and lodging of the tramps at the Young Men's Home, and also recommends that the tramps be placed at work upon the streets on penalty of imprisonment.

Mr. Metzgar moved that the resolutions comprising the report be referred back to Councils with an affirmative recommendation.

The resolutions were discussed at great length, and finally Mr. Metzgar's motion was lost.

STREET DISTRICTS.

The ordinance redistricting the city for street purposes was next taken up. The ordinance was amended by Select Council so as to provide two districts and two commissioners for the South Side, the same to the old city and also to the East End wards.

Mr. Glass presented a substitute for the ordinance which contains the amendment made by Select Council. The substitute, it will be understood, abolishes the road districts. It also defines the duties of the commissioners and provides that the compensation of the commissioners shall be in the old city shall be $1,200 per annum each and that of the other commissioners shall be $1,000 per annum. It also requires bonds in the sum of $5,000 for the faithful performance of their duties.

An amendment was offered fixing the bond at $2,000.

Mr. Finnerty also moved to amend by making the salaries uniform.

This occasioned considerable discussion during which it was shown by Mr. Welsh that the duties of the old City Commissioners would be much more onerous, and the amendment was lost.

The ordinance as amended was then referred to Councils with an affirmative recommendation.

The ordinance reducing the wages paid the employees of the Fire Department was postponed.

LETTING CONTRACTS.

The contract for grading and paving an alley running from Liberty street between Elm and Cedar streets, Sixteenth ward, was let to Robert Ellis at 15 cents per yard for grading, and 27 cents for paving. The work is not to be done until an ordinance is adopted establishing the grade.

The contract for constructing an eighteen inch pipe sewer on Fourth avenue from Market street to the Fourth avenue sewer, was awarded to Henry Lafferty at $1 80 per lineal foot.

A contract for constructing a twenty inch pipe sewer on Thirteenth street, South Side, was let to Messrs. Koch & Cappel at $1 73 per lineal foot.

A report was presented from the City Engineer and Attorney, recommending the payment of the claim of Messrs. Minna & Grier for work on Sukes run sewer.

The report was received and the name of the firm was ordered to be placed on the special pay roll. The claim amounts to between $600 and 700.

Adjourned.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

Lewis Bernard vs. Dwight, Luzerne county. Assignee ordered to pay J. L. Holmes, a creditor, several sums aggregating $2,300.

Ault & Comforth, bankrupts, Warren county. Assignee's report of the sales of certain real estate was confirmed nisi.

Samuel McBride, bankrupt, Butler county. Petition for discharge presented and final hearing ordered before Register Shafer.

O. F. Sheldon & Co., bankrupts, Crawford county. Petition for discharge presented and final hearing ordered before Register Woodruff on the 14th prox.

Christopher Rodgers, bankrupt, was discharged.

Wm. B. McLean & Co., bankrupts. Hearing on motion for injunction against Willis Boothe *et al.* continued to 31 prox.

Court adjourned over till Monday.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Stowe and Collier.

The case of Arthur Galnsford vs. Palnter & Welsh is still on trial.

Wesley Coulter vs. John Francis, surviving partner of Francis & Johnson; action to recover a promissory note. Verdict for plaintiff, $41. Henry Crenshore vs. D. Chestnut & Co.: action to recover for leather sold. On trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Hodgetts vs. Bradstreet *et al.*; Clark vs. Valentine *et al.*; Chambers vs. McCallin's exrs vs. Bowers; McCune vs. O'Neill; Rapp vs. Maple; Petty, administrator, vs. O'Neill; Krebbs vs. Benny, Jr.; Yant vs. Finney; Griffith vs. Voigt, Mahood & Co.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Ewing and Kirkpatrick.

City of Allegheny vs the Robinson estate. Verdict for plaintiff for $498 93. This was an action to recover an assessment of a sewer on Bird alley.

Casper Mueller vs. Peter Schmidt; an action to recover money on a partnership account. Verdict for plaintiff, $503 20.

Pittsburgh Central Board of Education vs. German American Bank, formerly Tenth Ward Bank; action to recover balance of money deposited. Verdict for plaintiff for $2,792 57.

In the matter of George W. Smith vs. J. H. Lightcap, administrator of E. F. Lightcap, deceased, the report of John C. Newmeyer, Commissioner, was confirmed.

Patrick McGrady vs. J. P. Fowler; action on a note. On trial.

The case of the same plaintiff vs. Louis Eisenbeis; an action against an indorser, is also on trial.

The case of W. A. Reed vs. Thomas Bell and John Weir, which went to the jury on Wednesday afternoon, is still undecided, the jury having failed thus far to agree. This is an action for damages to land of plaintiff, caused by defendants quarrying stone on their lands, in the Seventh ward, Allegheny. The Court charged that the plaintiff had a right to have his land supported by the adjoining and adjacent land of the defendants, as nature had given it to the support. The defendants had no right, by extraordinary excavations, to remove this natural support, without having provided adequate artificial support, and they were liable for the consequence of their wrongful acts, so far as it affected the land of the plaintiff. If the jury should find that the natural support had been removed and the land had been caused to slide, they should, in addition, regardless of artificial circumstances placed on plaintiff's land, the verdict should be for the plaintiff. If the natural support had not been removed by extraordinary excavations, the verdict should be confined as to the measure of damages, the jury had a right to take into consideration not only the damages sustained by the land, but what would be a natural consequence of the excavation within a reasonable time—not possible damages that may occur in an indefinite time. The measure of damages was not what it would cost to restore the lot to its former condition, nor what it would cost to build a wall to support it, but the amount the lot had been diminished in value by the wrongful acts of the defendants.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Swishelm vs. Swissvale Laundry; Goldsmith Bros. vs. Jones & Duff; City of Allegheny vs. Robinson's estate; Renshaw vs. Bartholomew; Holthouse vs. Kountz & Bartley; McKenny & Sons vs. Tenth ward Bank; Stewart for use vs. Briggs; Hamsher vs. Kellenmier; James vs. Hendricks; Grogan vs. Allegheny City; Burgan vs. Granger.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Sterrett.

Caroline Smith was acquitted of larceny, charged by A. F. Denston.

Benjamin Swartzweider was acquitted of a charge of entering a building with intent to commit a felony, the prosecutor being N. G. Ayers.

An information against Alex. Wilson, charging him with felonious assault and battery, was quashed, inasmuch as it appeared that it had been returned through error.

An information against Edward Shendle for false pretense was quashed, proceedings being barred by the limitation act. Jane Saley was the prosecutor.

J. H. Snyder pleaded *nolo contendere* to a charge of fraudulently making a written instrument, and was sentenced eight months to the Work House. David Boden was the prosecutor.

A. M. Crozier pleaded guilty to a charge of selling liquor without license.

Wm. Zimmer was convicted of fraudulently making and uttering a written instrument.

Mrs. A. M. Crozier was convicted of keeping a disorderly house, on oath of Michael McGrau.

Wm. Green is on trial on a charge of larceny preferred by S. G. Steinhauser.

HIGH SCHOOL LECTURES.

"The Foundation Stones of Chemical Physics."

Prof. L. H. Durling's lecture, the fourth of the High School course, on "Chemical Physics," delivered in the chapel of the institution last evening, was well attended. The lecture was intensely interesting, as it could scarcely fail to be, on a subject which has been so thoroughly studied and mastered as has chemistry by Prof. Durling. In his daily recitations the Professor changes the class room into a laboratory, and has his pupils like so many apprentices under a master chemist, actually use the crucible and retort, mortar and pestle, in the study and combination of the very few simple elements from which nearly all our drugs of commerce, and the wonderful changes that are effected in the manufacturing world are made, and from which Nature, without crucible or retort, elaborates her new forms in trucking out all the world in scenes of deliciousness, and hedging round the waking thoughts of men with wonder upon wonder."

The speaker introduced his subject by some preliminary remarks and then proceeded to show by experiments that all matter, whether solid, liquid, or gaseous expands when heat is added, and contracts when it is withdrawn and that in some cases this expansion is wonderfully great, as when water is changed into steam. Two explanations of this have been offered. The first explanation suggests that through the application of heat or other agencies matter may become more and more attenuated until it will expand, but so expand that it will still completely fill the space which it seems to occupy.

The second explanation assumes that matter is not continuous, but that it is made up of small—wonderfully small particles—termed molecules, and that these molecules are separated by spaces which may be increased or diminished, and that in this manner matter may expand or contract.

Prof. Durling next proceeded to test these explanations in the light of experiment, and found that while the first failed utterly to furnish any solution for whole classes of phenomena, the latter furnished in all cases a simple and satisfactory explanation.

The latter theory, which is termed the "Molecular Theory," is now almost universally accepted by scientists throughout the world.

The molecular theory was then developed step by step, to the great interest of the audience.

The nature of the three forms—the solid, liquid and gaseous—was next considered, and their leading characteristics developed so far as practicable by experiment, and when experiments were not practicable by diagrams and illustrations.

The speaker closed by hinting at what might be expected in his forthcoming lecture, and by stating that physics and chemistry alone in that is the domain of the wonderfully minute, just as infallible and beautiful laws prevail as in the domain of astronomy, and that while this latter science deals with magnitudes so great as to be almost beyond our comprehension, so chemical physics deals with magnitudes so small as to tax our powers equally as much in their endeavor to grasp the wonderful microcosm in which we live and move.

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only*—TEN CENTS *per line for each insertion. No advertisement less than* FIFTY CENTS.

WANTED.

WANTED—A MAN THOROUGHLY experienced in the construction of Coke Ovens and the manufacture of Coke, for a large Iron Works in Canada. Address, stating experience, references, and wages expected, B. R., care of WILLIAM D. MARVEL, Coal and Iron Merchant, 111 Broadway, New York.

WANTED—LADIES—A FEW INTELLIGENT Young Ladies to go to Philadelphia to solicit orders for Capitola Glazier's new work, "Battles for the Union." Management strictly confidential and respectable. All expenses advanced. References required. J. E. SIMMONS, 198 Second avenue.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

FOR SALE—DRUG AND PRESCRIPTION STORE—Doing one of the best paying business in the city. Reason for selling, ill health; profits $5,000 per annum. Reason for selling, on account of ill health. A rare chance for a bargain. Address PRESCRIPTIONS, Dispatch office.

WANTED — A PARTNER—EITHER Special or General, to invest from $15,000 to $20,000 in a manufacturing business, located near Pittsburgh. The house has been established for more than ten years, and is now doing a large and profitable trade. To one wishing to engage in the manufacturing business a more favor

The Commercial.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1875.

PENDLETON is searching through the South for a jack screw to hoist him into the Presidential chair.

THE New York *Herald* has discovered a mare's nest, and the Pittsburgh *Post* is trying to hatch out the eggs.

MR. SPEAKER KERR, it seems, is a candidate for the Presidency, and had this mainly in view in the appointment of his committees. The Presidential disease seems to have smitten every prominent man at Washington.

THE New York *Herald* inquires: "Have Northern and Eastern Democrats any rights which Southern and Western Democrats are bound to respect?" Of course not. Congress has been reconstructed—on a Confederate war basis.

THE eternal fitness of things is demonstrated in the appointment of WHITEHOUSE, of New York, who is generally reputed to have bought his way into Congress by a lavish outlay of money, to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Civil Service Reform.

HERE is another little straw showing in what direction the wind is setting for our Centennial year. The first city election of Frankfort, Indiana, held on Tuesday, resulted in a sweeping Republican victory. The Democracy made a bitter fight, but got beautifully snowed under.

THE Supreme Court of the Creek Nation has declared the law prohibiting the employment of any citizen of the United States by citizens of the Nation, for any purpose except mechanical and medical, under penalty of a fine of $300 and costs of prosecution, which passed both Houses of the National Council last September, to be unconstitutional.

THE Boston *Traveller* makes note of the fact that the Vermont Congressman, DENNISON, whose vote in favor of a third term surprised his constituents, is one of the pets of the "independent press." He ran in opposition to that polished gentleman and strong partisan, Judge POLAND, and his defeat of the old stager was at the time regarded as a great triumph for "independency."

CAMBRIDGE, the home of LONGFELLOW, evidently believes in letting the dead past bury its dead. The venerable historic elm in that city, under which WASHINGTON drew his sword and took command of the Continental armies, is dying because its ancient roots have been deliberately undermined and cut through by the Cantabrigian municipal government in order to make way for a public sewer!

THE first regular National Convention—or rather the first two—met in 1840. Both parties, Whig and Democratic, adopted the custom at the same time.—*Chicago Tribune.*

The first regular National Convention was that of the Whig party. It met at Harrisburg in December, 1839, and nominated HARRISON and TYLER. The Democratic National Convention followed in 1840.

BANNING, the new Chairman of the Military Committee, was formerly a Republican, then a Liberal, and finally a Democrat. He served in the war with distinction, and was the only Union soldier on that side of the House. If a Confederate soldier had been wanted for the place, there were plenty to choose from; but as one of a different stamp was needed, they had to borrow him from us.

THE Twenty-second Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the United States will be held at Philadelphia on the first of next June. The Commandery of Pennsylvania has issued invitations to every commandery in Christendom, and it is expected there will be a larger force in martial array under the banners of the Cross inscribed: *"In hoc signo vinces,"* than were ever seen on the plains of Askalon or before the gates of Jerusalem.

THE New Jersey press informs us that a lively correspondence is in progress between clergymen of different denominations, especially Episcopalians and Methodists, throughout that State, on the subject of the taxation of church property. It is proposed to hold a conference of clergymen within a few weeks to discuss the situation, in order that the question may be brought to the attention of the Legislature. An unmistakably strong feeling against the levying of taxes on houses dedicated to divine worship is evidently developing itself in many parts of the country.

THE frequent occurrence of extraordinary accidents in Europe, within a very short period, such as the sinking and burning of ships, collisions, and mine and dynamite explosions, relieve the United States from a monopoly of such events. It seems that such things can happen in Europe as well as here, and that the people on the other side of the Atlantic are subject to shocks just as awful as any that have befallen the people of America. There may be some things that are better attended to in Europe, than here; but the provision against fearful accidents does not appear to be among them.

THE New York papers state that among the prisoners who are daily arraigned before the courts of that city for different offenses, are to be found a very large number of intelligent and respectable looking young men, who, being discharged from manufactories and warehouses in consequence of the dullness of trade, have lived from hand to mouth while seeking employment, and, failing in obtaining any, have been driven to petty larceny and dishonesty. How wide and far the splinters of the destitution and ruin wrought by the great financial storm of 1873 and the dreadful business depression that has followed in its track, were driven!

THE new freight rates agreed upon by the four great trunk lines, are lower on all classes of freight from New York and Philadelphia to Chicago than are charged on the same kinds of freight from Boston to the West. The next step will be for Boston to cut under. The following are the new freight rates from New York to the West:

	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Fourth Class.	Special.
Chicago,	35c.	25c.	20c.	20c.	15c.
Louisville,	33c.	31c.	28c.	28c.	23c.
St. Louis	43c.	37c.	31c.	31c.	25c.

The rates to Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland are the same as those to Chicago. The new schedule takes effect to-day.

MANY merchants in various cities of the country having been in the habit of sending out papers devoted to special interests, in their own name, printed boldly on the wrapper, addressed "in care of" their customers, at the regular pound rate chargeable on daily papers, the question was submitted to the Postoffice Department, and the following decision has just been rendered:

"That a newspaper or periodical sent by mail to a regular subscriber implies not only the name of such subscriber, but his residence or place of business, and when a subscriber is temporarily absent there would be no objection to sending his paper at the pound rate to the place where he may be temporarily sojourning, but when papers are addressed to subscribers at places where they have no permanent or temporary residence or place of business, with an evident intention to defraud the Government of the legitimate rate of postage to which such papers are subject, they should not be delivered until postage has been paid thereon at transient rates, notwithstanding they may be sent to the care of some other individual."

THE House has a standing committee on Civil Service Reform, and Mr. KERR has appointed the usual proportion of Democrats upon it. Most, if not all the Democrats thus chosen for service on this subject, have heretofore been very noisy in denouncing the Republicans for their failure to establish a complete system of civil service, and we will now see what *they* will do toward framing such a system. The New York *Herald* well says:

The duties of this committee are, we believe, to see that good men are appointed to office and kept there during good behavior. The members are also to censure all attempts to dismiss competent men for political reasons. This is a good idea, and the sooner the committee goes to work the better. Let it inquire how many competent, honest men of honor and capacity, who have been for years in the service of the House, have been dismissed in the past few days. Let it demand the reasons for these removals, the names of the persons appointed to succeed them, and the reasons for the appointment of these new men. Let it summon the Postmaster and ask him for the names of the battalion of ex-Confederate soldiers which have been brought from Alexandria to find snug berths in the capital they tried so hard to burn a few years ago. Let it give the country the names of the members who have recommended the wholesale removal of old and faithful and efficient servants of the House to make room for the squads of ex-Congressmen, politicians, "plummers" and rebels who have been quartered on the House. There is no better way to begin this civil service investigation. The House is Democratic. If the Democrats mean to have this reform now is their chance.

THE Springfield *Republican* is authority for the statement that prominent Catholics, like Senator KERNAN and Cardinal MCCLOSKEY, are reported as giving welcome to the simple BLAINE proposition forbidding the connection of religious sects with the public schools, saying they would be glad to see it a part of the Constitution as settling the school question forever, and relieving their church alike from the temptation of some of its zealots to demand public money for its parish schools, and the odium which politicians and Protestants sometimes seek to bring against it on this ground for denominational or political effect. There would be great cause for congratulation if this should turn out to be the fact. Senator KERNAN is sufficiently wise in his generation, as a politician, to see that this is the right thing to do, but we doubt whether Cardinal MCCLOSKEY is gifted with the same amount of worldly wisdom. The clerical class, which he represents, has not given any evidence of being so far-sighted and clear-sighted as this would indicate. Leaving the clergy out of the question altogether, the Democratic politicians who are members of the Catholic Church certainly have the shrewdness to see that it would be supremely foolish to allow themselves to be entrapped into an opposition to the BLAINE amendment. The sharp thing for the political men of all parties to do is to pass the BLAINE amendment unanimously, and so force it out of our national politics.

NAVIGATION did not open at Buffalo last spring until May 12th, or twenty-four days later than in 1874, and the heavy shipments from the West closed several days earlier this fall than usual. The *Commercial Advertiser* thinks these facts fully account for the falling off in the receipts of flour, grain and miscellaneous articles by lake during the season just closed. The aggregate decline in the movement of breadstuffs was 4,500,000 bushels; but the receipts of grain, exclusive of flour, show the falling off to be only 2,800,000 bushels. This decline was almost entirely in the receipts of corn, which were 17,405,417 bushels against 22,302,856 bushels last year, 37,860,364 in 1873, and 35,077,389 in the year preceding. The wheat movement aggregated 30,489,460 bushels, exceeding the receipts of 1874 by over 2,000,000 bushels. In coarse freights the decline was more noticeable than in that of grain. The receipts of lumber reach 126,191,493 feet, against 140,156,957 feet in 1874, and 212,500,960 feet in the year preceding. The receipts of staves and hoops, which formerly constituted an important item of coarse lake freight business, also show a decline. The former this year were 15,313,116, against 22,235,809 in 1874, and the latter 21,962,200, against 25,184,000 last year. The receipts of iron ore were over fifty per cent. in excess of those of 1874, but considerably below those of the previous season.

THE appointment of a Sucker Congressman from Illinois to the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ways and Means—the leading committee of the House—by Speaker KERR, excites ridicule and condemnation in nearly every quarter. The New York *Evening Post*, which is predisposed to judge favorably of the Democrats, is as much chagrined as any of the many who complain, and says:

"If any fact is taken for granted, that the experiment is about to be made of a majority without a leader; or a majority all of whose members shall be leaders, like the regiments in the late war, which were made up of commanding officers; or a majority the leaders of which shall be self-constituted. The experiment seems to be a doubtful and dangerous one. On the very first day of the session it was seen how an overwhelming majority, incoherent and with no leader, might find itself at the mercy of a small minority ably managed. The experience is one which the Democrats cannot afford to repeat very often. If it should be the rule of the session, not only will the public business suffer, but all that the Democratic party expected to gain in the canvass for President by showing the country what it could do when put in possession of one-half of Congress will be missed. Without a leader the majority of the House of Representatives will drift helplessly to no definite conclusion.

THE alleged revelation, in the New York *Herald*, of the secrets of a new political order, the "Order of the American Union," amounts to very little. That there is such a society is probably true, and that it is political in its purposes; but the *Herald* has revealed but little concerning it that was not known before. The Order referred to confines its membership to American-born citizens, and its main purpose is directed against sectarian influence in politics; but it has not spread rapidly and has but little force. It has been in existence since 1867, and yet has only thirty-seven lodges in Pennsylvania in 1875. There is no good reason to believe that either the President or Mr. BLAINE belongs to it. If, as the *Herald* avers, the order is committed to the Third Term policy for GRANT, the allegation that BLAINE has been induced to join it is ridiculous. The managers, if committed to GRANT, would not permit an opposing candidate to come in and distract its councils. The whole story seems to have been got up as a sensation, and it will serve, as well as anything else, for a nine days' wonder.

IN Troy, New York, except for a little paragraph in the *Times* of that city, last Saturday, a poor widow and her five little children would probably to-day be past all need of such help as was cheerfully extended them after their wants were known. There are without doubt not a few similar cases of bitter want in our own city. The business depression during the year has affected none so severely as it has the honest poor, who have been unable to obtain the usual amount of work, and thereby put away something for the needs of winter, yet who prefer to endure cold and hunger with uncomplaining fortitude rather than make their wants known to their fellow creatures. All such cases of destitution should be diligently sought out to-day, if this has not yet been done, and such relief and succor extended as their necessities may require. To-morrow is the gracious Day on which the Christian world commemorates its best and greatest Gift. Let us all, in the exercise of kindly humanities, recognize the sacred example.

THE Washington correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* furnishes that paper with an interesting statement of the various grants of public lands to railroads, showing that the policy of land subsidies had its origin in 1850, when a grant of 2,595,053 acres was made to the Illinois Central Railroad. This was followed in 1862 by the grant of 35,000,000 acres to the several Pacific roads; in 1865, of 42,000,000 acres to the Atlantic and Pacific; 1,700,000 acres to the St. Joseph and Denver City road; 1,203,000 acres to the Southern branch of the Union Pacific Railroad; 1,200,00 acres to the Oregon Central road; 16,400,000 acres to the Texas Pacific road; 47,000,000 acres to the Northern Pacific road, and 3,200,000 to the Oregon branch of the Central Pacific road, making a total of 160,298,000 acres of public land granted to the roads mentioned. The record of the votes in the Senate on these grants shows that in many cases there was no division, and that in those where the yeas and nays were taken the majority was generally large.

PERSONAL.

Lucy Stone recalls the historical fact that Bunker Hill Monument was unfinished until Boston women raised the money, and that Fanny Elsler gave the proceeds of an exhibition for the capstone.

Rumor places General H. V. Boynton, the Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, at the head of a movement to obtain the McKee interest—which is the controlling one—in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*.

The Boston *Journal* says: "It is a bit of forgotten history that Jefferson was formally nominated to the Presidency for a third term by the Legislatures of Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island. He promptly declined the nomination."

A Middletown, Connecticut, jury gave this lucid verdict, a few days ago, on a suicide: "Timothy Donovan came to his death by hanging at his own hands, while making an insane experiment, without intending to destroy himself, but accidental." The Middletown schoolmaster is probably abroad.

Mr. Landers, a Congressional member from Connecticut, drew a seat well flanked. On his left sits the Utah delegate, and on his right a negro black as night. He says that, although he agreed in his acceptance of his nomination to Congress not to make any distinction on account of race, color or creed, he hardly expected to be placed between the "twin relics of barbarism."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE THRONES AND PALACES OF BABYLON AND NINEVEH. From the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean. A Thousand Miles on Horseback. By the Rev. J. P. Newman, D.D. Illustrated. 8vo. Cloth. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

Dr. Newman's work, though late appearing for the holiday season, will be welcomed by many as just the kind of a book for gift purpose, as it treats on a subject of absorbing and general interest, and is a splendid specimen of chaste typography. There is nothing gaudy in its make up, but everything is in the best style of the mechanic art. This gifted divine has long since shown ability in authorship. His style is of the gorgerous type, rich in thought and happy in the choice of language. While the ground which he passed over is familiar to some, as might be expected from the numerous works of Eastern travel, yet the majority of even well informed people are not familiar with this history, and it is indeed all the more popular because of Dr. Newman's mode of investing trite subjects with freshness and beauty. An enthusiastic traveler like the Doctor is sure to find readers. He has evidently used his eyes well, as he shows a familiarity with some things, which ordinary travelers overlook. The numerous illustrations give the volume a sumptuous appearance. His account of the supposed sights of the Garden of Eden is fascinating to say the least. The course of Dr. Newman's journey was from Bombay to the ancient city of Bagdad, including a visit to one of the supposed sites of the Garden of Eden; from England he set out for the ruins of Babylon, where he passed five days exploring the remains of that once magnificent city. He then made the journey to Nineveh, whence, after thoroughly inspecting all places of interest in that vicinity, he set out upon a horseback ride of six hundred miles through Mesopotamia and across Syria.

THE GREAT MEN OF GOD. Biographies of Patriarchs, Prophets, Kings and Apostles. A concise Bible History and Gallery of Sacred Portraits. By Rev. W. F. P. Noble. Elegantly illustrated. Introduction by Bishop L. W. Wiley. Published by Nelson & Phillips, 805 Broadway, New York.

Unique in design and equally unique in the presentation of the biographical sketches. No other field of biography is so rich and elevating or sacred—especially is it true in respect to this volume. After a brief introduction the contents comprise forty-six chapters, all, except ten, on Old Testament worthies, beginning with Adam. Each of these "Men of God" represent peculiar traits of character, from which the author has drawn lessons of wisdom and instruction. It is a rare thing to see embodied in a single work so much good and so worthy of indorsement by the good of every and. The style of the work is graphic and pictorial, philosophic and practical, as well. These distinguished "Men of God" are presented in a form that will surprise many, and they will be equally surprised to find so much to admire. The book is admirably printed and bound, and ought to sell well these holiday times. The twelve ideal portraits are a study in themselves and enhance its value. It is sold by subscription, and such has been the demand for it, that in thirty days after publication, the first edition of 1,200 copies was sold. H. W. Knight, Esq., is the Superintendent of the Subscription Department of Nelson & Phillips, 805 Broadway, New York, to whom all letters of inquiry should be addressed. Great inducements are offered to agents, and as it is a work that all denominations can indorse, it ought and will have a large sale.

FLORIDA: Its Scenery, Climate and History. A complete hand-book and guide. By Sidney Lanier. Profusely illustrated with wood cuts. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This opportune publication supplies a long felt want, especially as thousands from the North and East in winter wend their way to that sunny clime for health and pleasure. The book is not simply a compilation, though it belongs to the "hand-book" class of literature, as it contains a vast amount of historical knowledge, clothed in graphic language. The profuse illustrations add to the beauty as well as interest of the work. Besides there are descriptions of Charleston, Savannah and other cities in the South. Consumptives receive friendly suggestions. Papers of value are given on fruit culture. It ought to have a wide sale.

SONGS OF THREE CENTURIES. Edited by John Greenleaf Whittier. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is great weight attached to a collection of this kind, because it is the work of one of the few great poets of the age. The plan of the work is much akin to that of DANA and BRYANT, and more recently and more fully of EMERSON'S late collection. The preferences of the editor may be seen, and where such good judgment has been shown in editing the collection, fault is not likely to be found against the genial Quaker. The work opens with 1510, which Mr. Whittier divides into three terms—to Milton's day; to Burns' and to Longfellow's. Of the first he furnishes eighty examples, including Spencer, Shakespeare, Ben. Jonson, Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh and Milton. Of the second there are seventy-eight, including Burns, Cowper, Addison, Dryden, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith and H. K. White. The third furnishes three hundred and seventy-four, and introduces eighty-eight American poets. Mr. Whittier, however, in his large catholic spirit has included some popular poems and favorites of the public, though unworthy of standing in the highest circle of poets.

THE CHILDREN'S TREASURY OF ENGLISH SONG. Selected and arranged with Notes by F. T. Palgrave, editor of "The Golden Treasury," 18mo, cloth extra, $1 25. Published by Macmillan & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Mr. Palgrave has shown rare discrimination in the selection and arrangement of these songs, and it is conceded that the collection is high toned and worthy of the title, "Treasury of English Song." A book of such substantial elements will command the homage of all thinking minds. It was originally designed for young people between ten and sixteen. It is a rare thing to find such a rich embodiment of song, pure in sentiment and tone, which must make it popular. It is severely chaste in style and devoid of the showy condition of some works of this class. The publications of this house are noted for fine specimens of typographical art.

THE LITERATURE OF KISSING. By C. C. Bombaugh, M. D., author of "Gleanings for the Curious," etc. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

"Kissing" is as much of a luxury now as in all the past ages. None of the changes of fashion affects this custom. Long may it continue. Dr. Bombaugh has gleaned from all sources, from Jacob's experience with the unreluctant Rachael, down to the present, and has compiled a kind of encyclopedia of the art. The table of contents will indicate its character: The Kiss in History; Kiss in Poetry; Kiss in Dramatic Literature; Kiss in Fiction; Kiss in Humorous Story and Anecdote; Miscellanous Aspects and Relations. We have examples of the paroxysmal, impulsive, spirtual and enthusiastic kisses. The kiss Scriptural, and its classic and glowing type, with specimens of different nationalities; and in a word of every shade under the sun. It will likely have a wide circulation and would be a capital gift book.

THE ASBURY TWINS. By Sophia May, author of "Our Helen," "The Doctor's Daughter," etc. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

"Sophia May's" creations are almost real, so charmingly are the characters sketched. In this work she has woven a story of fascinating interest, pure in sentiment and elevated in tone. "Our Helen," and "The Doctor's Daughter," were widely and universally commended, and "The Asbury Twins" will make a companion volume. It appears in the nick of time for the holidays.

VEST POCKET SERIES. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

We presume this series is the outgrowth of the great success of "Little Classics." It was a happy idea of the enterprising publishers to inaugurate this new idea in book publishing. We have received four of these tiny volumes: "Snow Bound," by Whittier; "Evangeline," by Longfellow; "Power, Wealth, Illusions," and "Culture, Behavior, Beauty," by Emerson. The series will include works of Hawthorne, Lowell, Holmes, Howells, Brete Harte and others. These "Vest" volumes are only fifty cents each.

IN DOORS AND OUT; OR, STORIES FOR THE CHIMNEY CORNER. By Oliver Optic. Illustrated. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This admirable volume appeared twenty-one years ago, and is reprinted and republished at the urgent solicitation of partial friends. It is a collection of a score of popular stories, in which the author most adroitly thrusts at the follies of the parlor and the kitchen, of the shop and the counting room, "in Doors and out." Some of the "conversations" are piquant and flavored with sly humor. It is an enjoyable book for the holiday season.

GUIDO AND LITA. A tale of the Riviera. By the Marquis of Lorne. Published by Macmillan & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh. Illustrated. Paper covers.

This is a gem and gives evidence of the poetic talent of this titled author. It will add laurels to his name in literary circles. The "tale" is woven with charming symmetry in verse, and will attract the lovers of poetry on both sides of the water.

OUR SHOW. Published by Claxton, Remson & Haffelfinger, Philadelphia. For sale by W. A. Gildenfenny & Co., city.

This is a humorous account of the International Exposition in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of American Independence, from inception to completion, including description of buildings, biographies of managers, reception of foreign dignitaries, opening ceremonies, etc.

AN ISLAND PEARL. By B. L. Fargeon. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., city. Paper cover.

This is a story of thrilling interest, full of daring adventure, love episodes and a charming picture of little Pearl.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Old Virginia says "No" to the Centennial.

We shall have fifty-three Sundays in next year.

Australia, too, is perplexed with the Chinese puzzle.

Morrison pills do not appear to agree with Sunset Cox.

Know all men by these presents that to-morrow is Christmas.

Australia wants the postal card system, and it will probably be soon introduced.

Postmaster Holloway, of Indianapolis, has withdrawn from the *Journal* of that city.

The report that Senator Jones has discovered a mine of castile soap on one of his farms is probably a bubble.

The New York dubs split last week—the Army and Navy and the Scribblers—for rent and other unpaid obligations.

Sitting Bull, the Yankton Sioux chief, is said to be meditating a war with the whites. That Bull should be taken by the horns.

The Christmas season will not be a less merry one if a portion of the money set aside to purchase gifts is used to help the poor.

Thomas and Jeremiah have been converted. The latest real red-hot, enthusing beverage has been christened Moody and Sankey.

All the American officers in the service of the Khedive, except Colonel Stone, are ordered to join the Egyptian expedition against Abyssinia.

There is still a large amount of cotton in the Southern fields, and it is now certain that the largest crop has been made since the close of the war.

Two veterans of the "lost cause" in Missouri, Generals Joseph Shelby and Bacon Montgomery, are getting up a colony for Mexico. *Bon voyage!*

A new name for it. Staudermann's medical examiners, in their report, say "heart of shooting was simply the phenomenal expression of an epileptic vertigo."

There will be a "dead-letter office auction" sale in Washington next month. The catalogue embraces 8,000 different undelivered articles sent through the mails.

Confirmation of the flood theory. A sorry place, what is supposed to have been the backbone of a whale has been found at a depth of fifteen feet at Santa Rosa, California.

The tide of travel to Texas is so great that on one day last week it required two engines and fifteen passenger cars to carry the passengers by one train from St. Louis to Texas.

A Connecticut cow committed suicide last week. Her owner left his gun against the barn yard fence, and what did that cow do but knock it down and discharge it into her neck?

The career of Wiard, as inventor of ordnance, has closed. Of half a dozen guns, converted from the Parrott by his system, all burst on or before the sixteenth fire.

Close compression. A vessel cleared from Norfolk for Liverpool last week with a cargo of 7,176 bales cotton, weighing 3,221,971 pounds, besides 10,000 treenails and 5,000 staves.

The meanest man lives in Georgia. He borrowed a horse to tend a farm and after the crop was in he had the cheek to charge the owner for what his horse had eaten while in his possession.

It begins to look as if the grasshopper crop would soon be counted among the valuable products of our country. Grasshoppers are in great demand for bait in the French sardine fisheries.

The discovery has just been made that the brain and other viscera either normally contain alcohol, or else this substance is generated from them in the course of distillation in closed vessels.

The Edwin Forrest mansion has been sold. The price agreed to be paid is $98,000, $2,000 less than the price determined by the executors, but as it was so near the figure desired the offer was accepted.

High toned. The wife of a leading Congressman blandly told a visitor, a few days since, that she didn't mind having a room on the fourth story of her hotel at Washington, as she went up and down in the *ventilator*.

The wonderful expansive force of growing vegetable tissue is shown by the fact that a young squash, whose sides and bottom were imprisoned in iron bands, and across the top of which a level with weights attached, was placed for purposes of experiment, at six weeks old had lifted 60 pounds; at two months, 1,100 pounds; and at three months the extraordinary weight of 5,000 pounds. Such facts seem almost incredible.

A Health-Promoting Stimulant.

Physicians, who certainly ought to be the best judges of such matters, declare that wholesome stimulation is not only desirable, but essential in many instances. When the temporary good effect of a sound stimulant is confirmed and rendered permanent, as in the case of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, by the action of tonic and alterative principles combined with it, it becomes infinitely more efficacious as a renovant of physical energy and a corrective of those conditions of the body which invite disease. The Bitters have received the emphatic sanction of medical men who have observed the effect of that popular stimulative cordial as a remedy for weakness, nervousness, dyspepsia, constipation, inactivity of the liver, malarious fevers, and many other disorders. Its basis is sound old rye, the purest liquor known to commerce, and possessing tonic properties of no mean order.

E. F. Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron

Has never been known to fail in the cure of weakness attended with symptoms, indisposition to exertion, loss of memory, difficulty of breathing, nervous weakness, horror of disease, weak nervous trembling, dreadful horror of death, night sweats, cold feet, weakness, dizziness of vision, universal lassitude of the muscular system, enormous appetite, with dyspeptic system, hot hands, flushing of the body, dryness of the skin, pallid countenance or eruptions on the face, pain in the back, dull pain in the back, heaviness of the eyelids, frequent black specks before the eyes, temporary confusion and loss of sight, want of attention, etc. These symptoms all arise from a weakness, and to remedy that use E. F. Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron. It never fails. Thousands are now enjoying health who have used it. Get the genuine. Sold only in $1 bottles. Sold by E. F. KUNKEL, Depot and Office, No. 229 North Ninth street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Ask for Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron. This truly valuable tonic has been so thoroughly tested by all classes of the community that it is now deemed indispensable as a Tonic medicine. It cools the blood, purifies the blood and gives tone to the stomach, restores the system and invigorates life.

I now only ask a trial of this valuable tonic. Price $1 per bottle. Depot and Office, E. F. KUNKEL, No. 229 North Ninth street, below Vine, Philadelphia, Pa. Ask for Kunkel's Bitter Wine of Iron, and take no other. It is sold only in $1 bottles, with a photograph of the proprietor on each wrapper, all other is counterfeit. Sold by druggists.

Tape Worm Removed Alive.

Head and all complete in two hours. No fee till head passes. Send 3 cent stamp for circular to DR. KUNKEL, 229 North Ninth street, Advice free, no fee until cured. Ask for KUNKEL'S WORM SYRUP. Price $1, and guaranteed. Send for circular. nwf

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,

43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.

W. W. MARTIN.....President.
JAMES E. STEVENSON.....Secretary.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.
Assets January 1, 1873 - $778,251 56.
CHARTERED IN 1863.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 7 to 9 o'clock. Interest from May 1st to November 1st, 6 to 5 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent. per annum, on the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Book of By-Laws, Pamphlet at the office.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

GEO. A. BERRY, President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAS. PARK, JR., Vice Presidents.
D. F. MCKINLEY, Secretary and Treasurer.
A. M. BROWN, S. S. MARKS, WM. K. KNOCH, John S. Dilworth, F. Bahm, G. Follansbee, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert C. Schmertz, Christopher Lyle.
John H. Bailey, Solicitor.

NOTICE.

The firm of NICHOLS & MILLS is this day dissolved, L. Mills, Jr., purchasing the entire interest which will be continued under the name and style of L. MILLS & CO.

Braddocks, December 13, 1875.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Elegant Illustrated Quarto,

A CENTURY AFTER.

Picturesque Glimpses of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Complete in 15 Parts: 50 cents each. ALLEN, LANE & SCOTT and J. W. LAUDERBACH, Publishers, Philadelphia.

PRESTON BARR, Agent, 106 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh.

HALE, KILBURN & CO.

Sole Manuf'rs of the Prize Medal CHAMPION FOLDING BED

Warranted Best and Cheapest in the World. Illustrated Circulars Free—Mention this paper. 48 & 50 North Sixth St., Philada., Pa. Branch Store, 612 Broadway, New York.

THE

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company,

OF PHILADELPHIA.
INCORPORATED 1847.
ASSETS - - - - - $5,250,000

ENTIRELY MUTUAL.

The Penn Mutual is one of the oldest Life Companies in the country. It has made dividends annually to its members since the year 1849, inclusive. It is managed economically; selects its risks carefully; pays its losses promptly; and is liberal in its requirements generally. Its dividends may be applied to reduce the premium the second year, or to increase the insurance. Its policies are non-forfeiting after the third annual payment. *Endowment policies issued at Life rates.*

SAMUEL C. HUEY, Pres't; SAMUEL E. STOKES, Vice Pres't; H. S. STEPHENS, 2d Vice Pres't; JAMES WEIR MASON, Actuary; HENRY AUSTIN, Secretary.

JOHN D. BIGGERT, Agent, 61 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pennsylvania Military Academy,

CHESTER, PA.

SESSION OPENS SEPTEMBER 8TH.
Thorough Instruction in Civil Engineering, the Classics and English. Careful attention to the morals and manners of Cadets. For Circulars apply to CHARLES H. PAULSON, Esq., No. 115 Wood street, Pittsburgh, Pa. nwf

COL. THEO. HYATT, PRES'T PA. MIL. ACADEMY.

ASK YOUR STATIONER FOR HESTERBROOK'S STEEL PENS

Most Popular PENS in Use.

SAMPLES & PRICES IN APPLICATION.

WORKS CAMDEN, N.J. NEW YORK OFFICE 26 JOHN ST.

COMPLIMENTS

OF THE SEASON!

In making selections of Goods for our Special Line of Business for the Holiday Trade of 1875, we are aided by many years' practical experience, and the advantage of extensive dealing. We now offer for the inspection of the public a much greater variety, and more complete assortment than ever, in Rich and Rare, Useful and Beautiful Articles, appropriate for Holiday and Wedding Presents.

We offer unusual inducements in Fine Watches, Chains and Rich Jewelry, with a large and varied stock from which to select.

In Silver Ware, connoisseurs will find our stock to be larger and embracing a greater Variety of Patterns and Novelties than any ever exhibited in the city.

Our line of French Clocks, in Marble and Bronze Cases, contains many Rich and Chaste Patterns.

In Antique and Florentine Bronzes and Parisian Fancy Goods, many of which we have the exclusive sale, our stock, in Beauty of Design and Variety of Style, surpasses any former display.

We cordially invite the Public to an examination of our Goods, and shall be most happy to exhibit them to all, whether visitors or purchasers.

E. P. ROBERTS & SONS,

16 FIFTH AVENUE.

A REDUCTION!

OF

50 PER CENT.

FOR

TWO WEEKS ONLY!

Men's Overcoats, $5, worth $ 7 50
Men's Overcoats, $9, worth 13 50
Men's Overcoats, $15, worth 22 50
Boys' Overcoats, $3, worth 5 00
Boys' Overcoats, $5, worth 7 50
Boys' Overcoats, $8, worth 12 00
Men's Suits, $7, worth 10 00
Men's Suits, $10, worth 15 00
Men's Suits, $16, worth 24 00
Boys' Suits, $2, worth 3 00
Boys' Suits, $3 50, worth 5 00
Boys' Suits, $5, worth 7 50
Boys' Suits, $7, worth 10 00
Single Pants, $2, worth 3 00
Heavy Chinchilla Coats, $4, worth 6 00
Double breasted Coats, $6, worth 10 00
Heavy Winter Coats for Men, $3, worth 5 00

Jeans Pants, 95c; Knit Jackets, 75c; Woolen Socks, 20c.

STRASSBURGER & JOSEPH,

161 FEDERAL STREET, ALLEGHENY.

DRY GOODS.

WEDNE

New and Fresh Goods Daily

AND POPULAR BARGAINS

AT

WM. SEMPLE'S.

Opened To-Day,

The first assortment of a very large invoice of

Colored Dress Silks,

Our own importation, embracing all the choice new shades in Myrtle Green, Navy Blue, Prune, Plum, and beautiful assortment of dark shades in other colors, which we offer at much less than same Silks have ever before been offered.

Our line of Black Dress Silks is very complete in every grade and value, in which, from $1 to $2 50, cannot be excelled, including "Haud-Loom" Silks at $1 75, $1 87½ and $2.

At 10, 12½, 15 and 18½c, a very large assortment of Dark Dress Goods, worth 15, 20 and 25c.

At 12½, 15 and 18½c, choice assortment of Tycoon Repps.

At 18c per yard, large line of Plaid Dress Goods, worth 25c.

At 25c, a very complete stock of desirable Dress Goods of different materials, all the new shades and styles—special bargains.

At 75, 80, 85 and 90c, unusual good value in Black Cashmeres. In value for prices these goods are unequaled anywhere.

Lower and finer qualities proportionately low.

Extra good value in Black Alpacas, every grade, complete stock.

Real good bargains in fine Dress Goods, Suitings, Plaids, &c.,

AT

William Semple's,

165, 167 and 169

FEDERAL STREET, ALLEGHENY.

N. B.—As our Store will be open only and week as possible, thereby avoid ceive better attention and be more upon, although we shall endeavor to

James Caldwell & Co.

Have Just Opened a Large Assortment of

LUPINS, FRENCH MERINOS AND CASHMERES,

IN BLACK AND COLOR SHADES.

These Goods were bought at the recent Closing Out Auction Sale of Lupin's fabrics in New York. We are consequently offering them at a great reduction on early season prices. Parties in want of Choice Goods will find this a rare opportunity to buy Fine Goods at moderate prices.

FANCY DRESS GOODS.

PLAIDS, CAMELS' HAIR CLOTHS and KNICKERBOCKER EFFECTS at Greatly Reduced Prices. A Large Stock of

LADIES' FINE FURS,

Seal Sacques, Muffs and Boas.

LADIES' CLOTH CLOAKS,

SACQUES AND JACKETS,

From Six to Ten Dollars, former price Eight to Fifteen Dollars. A few Very Choice

Black Silk Suits,

Trimmed with Velvet, at One Hundred Dollars, reduced from One Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars. Our stock of

BLACK AND FANCY DRESS SILKS

VERY COMPLETE.

Agents for the Domestic Sewing Machine.

JAMES CALDWELL & CO.,

115 and 117

FEDERAL STREET, ALLEGHENY.

MILLINERY, STRAW GOODS, &C.

MILLINERY AND STRAW GOODS!

THE PLACE TO BUY

Ladies', Misses' and Children's

Trimmed or Untrimmed Hats,

Ribbons, Flowers, Laces,

EMBROIDERIES, FEATHERS OR ANY OTHER MILLINERY GOODS IS AT

R. H. PALMER'S,

105 MARKET STREET.

CARPETS.

FIRST PREMIUM AWARDED AT PITTSBURGH EXPOSITION, FOR

Brussels Carpets,

FROM

McFarland, Collins & Co

Who have just opened an invoice of the new

WOVEN DRUGGETS,

The first that have been made for two years, and are especially suited for this market.

NO. 101 FIFTH AVENUE,

Next to U. S. Custom House and Postoffice.

J. & H. PHILLIPS,

Manufacturers and Dealers in

Oil Cloth, Window Shades, &c.

GREEN SHADE CLOTH A SPECIALTY.

Also Agents for the BOSTON BELTING CO.'S RUBBER BELTING HOSE, STEAM PACKING, &c.

Dealers in LEATHER BELTING, LACE LEATHER and RUBBER GOODS GENERALLY.

PAINTING, GRAINING and GLAZING.

Nos. 26 and 28 SIXTH STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA.

MORRISON, BARR & CO.,

PAPER MERCHANTS,

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, December 23, 1875.

The money market was easy and quiet to-day, with only a moderate inquiry from first class borrowers. The banks are taking about all the paper offered by their regular customers, but show no disposition toward an effort to extend their line of discounts, being well content generally to hold large balances over the first of the year, and the impending date at which the Comptroller of the Currency will probably call for a statement of condition. Rates of discount are quotable at 8@9 per cent. at the banks, with some especially good paper taken at less rates. There was some inquiry for currency to-day, showing a slight preponderance of Eastern exchange, but not sufficient to make New York drafts go below par. There was no news of importance in local stocks or securities.

It may not be amiss for us to remind business men that all notes or acceptances, otherwise falling due on the 25th or 26th, must be paid to-morrow, the 24th, as Saturday is Christmas Day, and the next day is Sunday. The notes maturing on three separate days, therefore, are crowded into one day. Bearing this fact in mind will probably save some trouble and vexation.

—The decision of The United States Supreme Court in the case of David Dows & Co., plaintiffs in error, vs. the National Exchange Bank, of Milwaukee, has already been referred to in the columns of the COMMERCIAL, but the principle involved is so important and some phases of the decision have so strong a bearing on questions of local interest that we give considerable space to it. The principle announced is indeed not new, and the decision itself does little more than affirm older ones by the United States Circuit Court; but until this decision it has never been at least so firmly settled by the highest judicial authority in this country that, in the language of the opinion, "the owner of personal property cannot be divested of his ownership without his consent except by process of law." Money and negotiable securities are excepted from the full application of this rule. The circumstances of the case go to show, moreover, that while there was room for the contention of the plaintiffs in error that this consent had been given, at any rate constructively, the Supreme Court will lean against such a construction when the evidence does not compel it. Even should the court, therefore, grant a reargument, and the cases in question finally reach a different determination, it seems likely that the principal grounds of the present decision will remain undisturbed, and that they may be proceeded upon as settled law. A recapitulation of the leading facts of the case are necessary to its understanding, which we copy as follows from the *Journal of Commerce*:

A. F. Smith & Co. were commission merchants at Oswego, and also proprietors of the Corn Exchange Elevator at that place. McLaren & Co. were grain dealers at Milwaukee, and upon order of Smith & Co., but with their own funds, bought 22,341 bushels of wheat, drawing upon Smith & Co. at sight and time for the price, and selling the drafts to the National Exchange Bank of Milwaukee. The grain was shipped for account of W. G. Fitch, cashier of that bank, to the Merchants' Bank of Watertown, New York, which was Smith & Co.'s bank, and an invoice being to the latter, enclosing the price of the wheat, interest until shipped, insurance to Oswego, and freight and forwarding charges, interest on drafts, stamps and commissions, the account being balanced by a credit of the drafts. The wheat went by lake to Oswego, and the drafts, with bill of lading attached, were sent to the Watertown bank, as expected, at the court says, with the most positive instructions, by letter and by indorsement on the bills, to hold the latter until the drafts were paid. It should be also mentioned that the consignee bank was designated by Smith & Co.—McLaren testifying, however, that the agent of Smith & Co. was informed that while willing to accept any responsible bank they might select, the shippers would not depart from their rule of requiring payment of the drafts before surrendering the property to pass from the control of the consignee bank. The Merchants' Bank of Watertown sent orders to the masters of the carrying vessels to deliver cargo to the "Corn Exchange Elevator, Oswego," which was the elevator of Smith & Co., but at the same time advised Smith & Co. that the grain was to be "delivered only on payment of the drafts. The grain, however, was delivered before the time drafts were paid. Smith & Co. sold the grain to David Dows & Co., of New York, and, having collected the money, failed. Suit was brought by the Milwaukee bank against Dows & Co., the innocent holders of the grain, and judgment was given against them. The case was carried up to the Supreme Court, which, in the decision alluded to, affirmed the decision of the lower court.

The law of the principle affirmed in the decision, upon some of the features of the local trade is important. It is plain that a leading feature of the case is that Smith & Co. were enabled to hold themselves out as owners, and finally to throw upon innocent buyers the loss which, if the credit had been really, as it was apparently, given by the consignors, would have properly fallen upon the latter. The court is not harsh in saying that these innocent purchasers, Messrs. Dows & Co., "are the victims of a gross fraud perpetrated by A. F. Smith & Co." If this principle is to have a full application, the circumstances will furnish a warning to buyers from double-dealing commission merchants and warehousemen, to look sharp in order to ascertain that the transmission of title is clear, or at least that the parties from whom they are buying will satisfy any claims which the owners of the produce may justly have.

It is at all events important for parties who have been buying produce from the bogus commission dealers who carry on operations here, to inquire whether under the principle involved in the decision they have not become liable to the owners of the grain, who have been defrauded by the middleman. In view of the decision, we certainly should consider it no more than due caution, for buyers of produce or grain to eschew dealings with any commission merchants, but those of approved honesty and responsibility. The decision certainly imparts that a person in possession of personal property—unless, of course, by some special statutory power such as the Factors' act confers—cannot give a purchaser a better title than he himself has; that a bailee, for example, professing to be the owner of the property bailed, and transferring it to a *bona fide* purchaser without notice, for value, cannot divest the title of the bailor, and the latter may recover his property wherever found. It would be then worth while for dealers, who contemplate buying of any of the disreputable class of commission men in this city, to inquire whether they may not be required to pay for the goods twice over.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 23, 1875.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:40 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	113½	113¾	113	112⅞	113¼	113⅜
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	120¾	120¾				
5-20's, 1865	113¼	113¼				
5-20's, 1865, registered	113	113				
5-20's, 1867						
5-20's, 1868						
10-40's, coup.						
Currency 6's	124	125				
New 4½ per cents	115	115½				
Western Union Tel.	97	97¼				
Quicksilver						
Pacific Mail	20	20½	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Panama						
Adams Express				102		
Wells, Fargo & Co.						
American Express						
United States Express						
New York Central	105	105⅛		105⅛	105⅛	105⅛
Erie	15	15¼		15¼	15¼	15¼
Michigan Central	98	98				
Michigan Southern	93	93¼		93¼	93¼	93¼
Illinois Central	99	99				
Clev. & Pitt. burgh						
Chicago & North'w'n	37	37½	37½	37½	37½	37½
Do preferred	54	54⅜		55		
Rock Island						104
St. Paul, common						
Do preferred	67	67¼	66¾	67	66¾	66¾
Wabash, common	25	25				
Fort Wayne	97	97				
Ohio & Mississippi	16	16¼		16¼		
Union Pacific						
Burlington	72	72¼		72		72
Rensselaer & St. Jos.						
Atlantic & Pacific	20	20		20		20½
Missouri Pacific						
Kansas Pacific	12½					12½
Kansas Pacific, Asp'l	12	12				
South Carolina, Asp'l						
Mariposa	8	8				

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central			51¾
Reading			53¾
United Co's of N. J.	133½	133	
Oil Creek			10½
Allegheny Valley		55¼	
Central Transp'n Co.	45½	46½	
Empire Transportation	32		

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closes at 113¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 23.—Money loaned at 7 per cent. gold, and 1-32 per diem., closing at 6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 6@8 per cent. Custom receipts $622,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $424,000. Clearings $21,000,000. Sterling 485@488¼.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 113¾, declined to 112⅞ and recovered to 113¼ at which it closed. Rates paid for carrying were 1, 3, 2, 3¼, 4, 5, 6, 7 and finally 3 per cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds weak and lower. Railroad bonds quiet. State securities steady. Stocks were strong and higher with an advance of from ¼ to 1½ per cent. Lake Shore as the feature. There were free purchases of Pacific Mail on a report that Goodall & Nelson had withdrawn their line of steamers to Victoria, which leaves the entire carrying trade by steamers to British Columbia in the hands of the Pacific Mail Company. At the Stock Exchange this afternoon, 4,500 shares of Lake Shore and 700 shares of Western Union were bought in under the rule for the account of George Dickinson, an operator on the bear side of the market. Transactions at the Stock Exchange aggregated 159,000 shares, of which 15,000 were Pacific Mail, 10,000 Western Union, 61,000 Lake Shore and 5,000 Michigan Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	72¾	Rock Island	103¾
Pacific Mail	20¾	St. Paul	34½
Mariposa	9	Do preferred	63½
Do preferred	9¼	Toledo & Wabash	32
Adams Express	101	Do preferred	5
Wells Fargo Ex.	86	Fort Wayne	97
American Ex.	56½	Terre Haute	5
United States Ex.	60	Do preferred	20
New York Central	105⅛	Quicksilver	37½
Erie	15¼	Do preferred	38½
Do preferred	31	Ohio & Mississippi	16
Harlem	130	Del. Lack. & West.	120
Do preferred	130	Atlantic & Pac Tel	18
Mich. Central	98½	Indiana Central	35
Panama	135	Sterling Coal & Iron	2
Lake Shore	93⅝	Hannibal & St. Jos.	22½
Illinois Central	99¾	Union Pac. stock	72
Clev. & Pitts.	89½	Cen. Pac. bonds	107
Northwestern	38½	Union Pac. bonds	91½
Do preferred	55	Do land grant	101
C. C. C. & I.	58	Do sink. fund bds	93
N. J. Central	106		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	123½	New 5's	117½
5-20's, 1865	114½	10-40's registered	116½
5-20's, 1865, new	119½	10-40's coupons	117½
5-20's, 1867	121¼	Currency 6's	125½
5-20's, 1868	121¼		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	40¼	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	38¾	Missouri 6's	102½
Virginia, new	37		

LONDON, December 23, 5 P. M.—The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £607,000 the past week. The proportion of the bank reserve to liabilities is 41¾ per cent. The amount of bullion withdrawn from the bank on balance to-day was £270,000. The rate of discount in open market for three months' bills was 2¾ per cent., being ⅜ below the Bank of England rate. Consols for money 93 13-16; for account 93 15-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 104; do 1865, 105⅝; do 10-40's 103½; new do 104⅝. Railroad securities—New York Central 96; Erie 13⅝; do preferred 28.

PARIS, December 23.—The specie in the Bank of France increased 20,475,000 francs the past week. Bullion 6 francs 38 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 23.—United States bonds—New 5's, 99½.

NEW ORLEANS, December 23.—Gold 113. Sight ¼ discount. Sterling—Commercial 542@545; bank 547@547½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 23, 1875.

There was nothing especially new to note in the wholesale trade of our city to-day. A moderate business was done in some departments of merchandise that feel the stimulus of the holiday trade. Otherwise business was comparatively light, and the usual dullness which is to be expected at this season of the year was in full force. There was nothing new to note in values, the features of the trade in that respect being very much as heretofore reported.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	850	Apples, bbls	35
Corn, bush	3,300	Cheese, boxes	410
Wheat, bus	1,080	Butter, pkgs	30
Oats, bus	2,000	Hay, bales	450
Potatoes, bus	1,150		

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales values will change an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Grain.

GRAIN—The market was quiet and rather stagnant with no change to report. Wheat was nearly and is fairly weak. Spot sales of Michigan white wheat at $1 35@1 40 ₱ bushel; Pennsylvania and Ohio do at 1 30@1 35; Northwestern red at 1 27@1 30; prime sound red winter at 1 27@1 30; low grade do at 1 21@1 25; rejected do at 1 00@1 10, as to quality. Corn was quiet and quotable unchanged. We quote old shelled nominally at 47@48c ₱ bushel for prime; 46@47c for high mixed; 42@43c for low mixed; new ear is firmer at 43@45c for mixed; 51@54c for choice yellow; new shelled is at 52@54c for choice. Oats were in fair demand at easy prices. We quote choice Western white at 44@45c ₱ bushel; prime do 43@44c; Ohio and Pennsylvania do 42@43c; dark to light mixed 40@42c. Barley was quiet. We quote Canada at $1 30@1 35 ₱ bushel; choice spring $1 18@1 23; common to prime do $1 00@1 15; choice fall $1 10@1 15; low grades do 90@95c. Rye is steady and unchanged at 80@85c ₱ bushel for prime. Jobbing prices of corn and oats rule above quotations.

FLOUR—The market is fairly active at unchanged values. We quote the wholesale prices of the local millers as follows: No. 1 white wheat flour $6 00 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber do $5 50; red wheat flour $5 25; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are steady as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $7 75@8 00; well known brands of family flour $7 00@7 25; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 50@6 75; Minnesota $6 75@7 25; fancy St. Louis $6 @8 50; choice patents $8 50@9 00; new process winter wheat flour is active at $9 00@9 50; Graham flour $7 00@7 25; self raising flour, in 6 ₱ packages, $5 25 ₱ dozen packages; cornmeal is quiet and steady at $2 90 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 00@3 25; rye flour $5 25 ₱ bbl.

APPLES—There is a moderately good trade in fruit, prices are rather easy but not quotably lower. Choice eating apples raised at $3 50@3 75 ₱ barrel; large cooking at 2@2 50; common to medium grades in light demand at $2 50@3 00.

BUTTER—Prime qualities continued in good demand and quite active at firm prices. Low grades were overabundant and dull. We quote prime to choice dairy at 28@30c; fair to good 25@27c; common to fair 18@22c.

CHEESE—The demand was as usual a little slow, but is fair for small lots at previous rates. We quote prime Ohio factory at 13¼@13½c ₱ lb for September; New York Goshen 14@15c; Switzer 16@18c; Limburger 12@13c.

EGGS—The supply was liberal and the market was easy. Quotations for strictly fresh are 27@28c ₱ dozen; packed in boxes for shipping and easy at 26@24c.

POTATOES—The business in round lots to-day was generally at shaded figures, holders being desirous of realizing even at the cost of considerable concession. The trade from store was steady with a fair demand. We quote for round lots on track 30@35c for Peerless and Early Rose; 40@43c for prime peachblows. From store there is a quiet but easy market at 45@50c ₱ bushel.

POULTRY—Under the influence of the warm weather, the market was very weak and business was done at very low prices compared with former quotations which are wholly nominal. Chickens, Guineas and turkeys are in demand, and dull. We quote at $1 20@1 40 ₱ barrel. Dried green peas are quoted at $1 65@1 75 ₱ bushel.

Groceries.

There was a moderately active business in staple groceries, with a wholly unchanged range of values. The demand is principally of a small character for immediate consumption, as merchants do not care to hold large stocks over the beginning of the year. Coffees and sugars are both steady and unchanged. We quote as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Mould*	11@12 c
Fancy Rio	25 c	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Prime Rio	24 c	Standard A	10¾c
Good Rio	23 c	Standard B	10¼c
Java	34 c	Confectioners' A	10¼c
Roasted Coffees.		C—yellow	8½c
Rio, in bbls	22@24c	Franklin, B	9½c
Rio, in bulk	22 c	Cut Loaf	12¾c
Rio, in packages	24 c	Crushed	12¾c
Java, in papers	36 c	Powdered	11¼c
Java, in bulk	30½c	Granulated	11½c
		Molasses.	
Young Hyson	50@81 00	Strip'd. N. O. new	63c
Gunpowder	45@1 25	Prime	50c
Imperial	50@1 00	Good	38c
Japan	35@1 00	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	25@ 80	Ex. white drips	70c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	60c
Sundries	25@ 85	Lower grades	35@50c
		Spices.	₱ lb.
Choice Carlin	7¾@8 c	Pearl	4½@5 c
Patna	7 c	Starch glosss	9½@ c
Rangoon	7¼@7½c	Corn	10½c
Louisiana	7 c	*Soaps.*	
Spices.		Irish soap, 60 box	4½ 25
Cloves	60 c	S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75
Alspice	13@15 c	Babbitt's best, 60s	6 00
Pepper	33@35 c	Dobbin's, ₱ lb	8½c
Nutmegs	80@1 35	German mottled	6½c
Pepper	25 c		
Candles.		Bi-carb, in kegs	5 c
Star, full weight	18 c	Bi-carb, in ½ pkgs	5½c
Stearine	20 c	Bi-carb, in ¼ papers	7 c

TOBACCOS—A moderate movement continues to characterize this line of trade, without quotable change in values. We quote as follows:

Manufactured		Six Twist	43@55c
Spun rolls	50@63c	Solid smoking—unassorted	50@75c
Black Navy	35@63c	*Leaf Tobacco—*	
Black Tens	37½@63c	Western leaf—	
Louisville Navy	37½@63c	wrappers	15@20c
Louisville Cav	68@70c	West'n fine—fillings	9@12c
Virginia Navy	37½@63c	Ohio seed wrap	12@25c
Virginia Tens	58@63c	Ohio seed filler	9@12c
Virginia Cav	58@63c	Conn. (choice) wrapper	60@65c
Double Thick	63@68c	Conn. filler	12@15c
Flounders	63@68c	Havana wrapper	1 25@2 50
Bright pounds	63@68c	Havana fillers	60c@1 25
Solid Quarters	47½@63c	*Cigars—*	
Rough & Ready	65@68c	Penn'a. seed	15@ 20
Cut plugs	50@75c	Connecticut	25@ 30
Fine Cut	55@63c	Seed & Havana	30@ 35
Cut and Dry	33@72c	Havana	90@1 50
Scotch Snuff	35@75c		

FISH—A steady trade at firm prices is noted in Shad, with a good demand. We present the following revised list of quotations:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel	$34 00	Labrador herring, split	$ 50
No. 1 mess do	32 00	Round do	4 50
Ex. No. 1 shore do	22 00	Lake herring	4 50
No. 1 shore do	20 00	Large George's cod fish, ₱ box	6 50
Ex. No. 1 bay do	19 00	Medium do	5 50
No. 1 bay do	17 00	Boneless codfish	6 c
No. 2 do	15 00	Do	7 c
Extra shore	14 00	Scaled herring	40 c
No. 1 shore	12 00	Round do	30 c

River News.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Arrived.

Geneva.....M. A. Cox.....Geneva.
Elizabeth.....Boyd.....Elizabeth.
Elector.....Abrams.....Geneva.
Chieftan.....Hendricks.....Geneva.
Salt Valley.....Sanford.....Ironton.

Departed.

Geneva.....M. A. Cox.....Geneva.
Elector.....Abrams.....Geneva.
Elizabeth.....Boyd.....Elizabeth.

MONONGAHELA—Twelve feet six inches and rising.

Boats Advertised for This Day.

Brownsville and Geneva.....8 A. M. and 4 P. M.
Wheeling.....Market Boy.....Porter.....12 M.
Ironton.....Salt Valley.....Sanford...4 P. M.
Cincinnati.....Exchange.....Shuman..4 P. M.

STOCK SALES.

BY THOMAS F. STEWART.

Auction Sale of Coal and Iron Stock

TO PAY ASSESSMENTS.

The following shares of Stock, in PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY COAL, COKE AND IRON COMPANY, will be sold at Auction, at the Real Estate and Sales Rooms of THOMAS F. STEWART, corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, on

Friday Evening, Jan. 7th, at 7½ o'clock.

13 shares belonging to D. Wenke—$3 64 due on each share.
20 shares belonging to James Bown—$36 72 due on each share.
40 shares belonging to Wm. Smith—$36 92 due on each share.
10 shares belonging to F. W. Heslop—$85 49 due on each share.
40 shares belonging to J. M. Brush—$36 72 due on each share.
5 shares belonging to Ira B. McVey & Co.—$36 72 due on each share.
56 shares belonging to Andrew Lyons—$36 72 due on each share.

The above stocks to be sold in accordance with by-laws of the said Coal, Coke and Iron Company, on account of assessments as above, being due and unpaid.

THOMAS F. STEWART,
AUCTIONEER.

AUCTION SALES.

BY JOHN D. BAILEY.

PRATTS'

GREAT ANNUAL SALE OF

10,000 VOLUMES

OF

Beautiful Books, Fine Bibles, Albums, &c., &c., for the Holidays.

EVERY DAY AND NIGHT THIS WEEK. All to be sold at about HALF REGULAR PRICES. Ladies are invited to attend.

J. K. PRATT & BRO,
J. D. BAILEY, Auctioneer. MWF

WHEATLAND Rail Mills and Blast Furnaces FOR SALE.

WE WILL OFFER AT AUCTION, on the premises,

On Thursday, January 13, 1876,

AT 1 O'CLOCK P. M.,

The above named valuable property, located at Wheatland, Mercer county, Pa., on the line of the Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad, and having track connection with A. and G. W. R. R.

The property consists of Blast Furnaces, capable of producing 600 tons of Pig Metal weekly; 1 Rail Mill nearly new, with all modern improvements and capable of producing 1,000 tons of Rails weekly; some 220 Buildings, consisting of Tenant Houses, Managers' House, Clerks' House, Brick and Frame Offices, Carpenter Shop, Store; Locomotive House, Ice House, Stables, &c., &c., together with about 323 Acres of Land, three-quarters of a mile of railroad track, Engines, Rolling Stock, &c. The Furnaces and Rail Mills are in good order and ready for immediate use, and the Buildings in good condition, the larger portion of them having been only recently erected.

Also, 800 SHARES, BEING TWO-THIRDS INTEREST OF

Shenango Coal Company Stock,

Together with certain lessee and royalties on Coal in mines now being operated by said Company, a detailed description of which will be furnished on application.

TERMS—One-half cash, $10,000 of which (either in cash or approved certified check) will be required at time of sale, remainder of cash payment on tender of deeds; purchase money to be secured by notes with interest, and secured by bond and close mortgage, payable in one, two and three years.

For pamphlet, giving full detailed description of Real Estate, Property, Buildings, Machinery, Furnaces, &c., address

R. H. STEPHENSON,
JOHN J. STEARMAN,
H. W. OLIVER, JR.,
Trustees in Bankruptcy of Jas. H. Wood, 114 Water street, Pittsburgh.
JOHN D. BAILEY, Auctioneer.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE. Real Estate.

Good for MR. DAWES.—In the United States Senate, on the 14th inst., Senator Morrill introduced a bill making an appropriation of $150,000 to continue the improvements of the Monongahela river in the States of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

THE Cincinnati *Times* says: Mr. J. F. Kelling informs us that there is now a party organized that Youghiogeny coal is selling for eight cents per bushel by the barge load. Nine cents is the selling price to dealers by lots who sell to a Pittsburgh party who was anxious to sell.

THE Dugan is the only sternwheeler that Captain Meany has been on for a long time, and he sometimes forgets that she isn't a sidewheeler. Landing the other day at Mingo Island he ordered the pilot to "hold her upon the outside." "Old man," solemnly answered the pilot, "she's on nothing else."

CAPTAIN JOHN GREENOUGH, of the Carondelet Marine Ways, formerly of this city, is in town on a visit to his numerous friends and relatives. Johnnie is one of Pittsburgh's old-time boatmen, and stands high in his profession. We welcome the captain back to his old home.

THE following Western boats have or had the Baltimore compound engines: Dictator, Quickstep, Great Republic, Ella Quigley, Carrie V., Kountz John A. Wood, Mollie Moore, H. C. Yeager, John F. Tolle, Katie P. Kountz, and C. W. Mead. They are to be put also in Jo. Williams' great new towboat at Pittsburgh, and Thorwegan's Grand Republic hotel. These engines are very popular with those who have used them.

THE Memphis *Avalanche* says: White river has a fair packet channel, so has the Red and Yazoo, but Washita has shoaled, and most of the craft lately plying there have laid up. The Arkansas continues dead low, with scarce 30 inches from Pine Bluff out, and no prospects of getting better. The levee, as usual on Monday, was crowded with business. Cotton and merchandise covered its paved slope in all directions, while the mooring space was taken by fifteen steamers which lay here together.

THE Wheeling *Intelligencer* of Wednesday says: The steamer Express departed for Parkersburg at 3:30 P. M.

The steamer O'Neal arrived from Steubenville and returned.

The little Star of the West resumed her trips in the Wheeling and Bellaire trade yesterday.

The towboat Fred Wilson passed up with an empty tow of barges.

The steamer James Rees is aground at Clarington.

The Hudson left Cincinnati for Wheeling on Tuesday evening with a good trip.

A Small Run of Coal.

The fine stage of water in our rivers has induced our coal men to forward a small run of coal to the lower markets. The following boats will probably get off to-day, and others will be apt to follow before the close of the week.

FOR CINCINNATI.

Towboats.	Barges, &c.	Bushels.
J. A. Stone	10	115,000
Hemen Tiger	11	125,000
Whale	12	144,000
Total	33	384,000

FOR LOUISVILLE.

Towboats.	Coal-boats	Barges, &c.	Bushels.
Samuel Clark	2	10	178,000
Diamond		13	156,000
Dick Fulton No. 3	5	3	140,000
Bear	5	3	180,000
B. D. Wood	4	3	131,000
M. C. Childs		10	120,000
I. N. Phillips	5	2	130,000
Total	21	47	1,055,000

RECEIPTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway.

Wm Buente, 2 cars; Lamg & McK, 1 car oats; Whitmyre & Co, 1 do wheat; F H Wunderlich, 8 cases coffins; W P Townsend & Co, 19 kegs rivets, 1 cask do; I S Layton, 6 casks earthenware; Moorhead, McC & Co, 8 cars limestone; Bindon & P, 1 box butter, 10 do cheese; Haworth & D, 1 bbl molasses; C & P Milk Co, 1 do eggs; S B Floyd & Co, 1 car baled hay; H Lippincott, 2 bbls dried peaches; Read, C & Co, 10 do apples, 52 sks buckwheat flour, 2 bbls eggs, 1 keg butter; Blanchard, B & S, 1 case eggs, 1 keg butter; Jeffries, K & Co, 1 hf bbl butter; Cavitt & P, 2 bxs g ware; P Duff & Sons, 19 do cheese, J P Hamm, 9 dressed hogs; J L Hudson, 10 bbls flour; A Speer & Sons, 22 grindstones; Wilbert & W, 21 tubs butter; R A Lamb, 6 bbls eggs; Voigt, Maloof & Co, 35 barrels apples, 864 boxes cheese; Spratt, J & Co, 1 car plow handles; J P Smith, 500 & 4 bxs g ware; R Bailey, 864 bxs candles; R Owens & Co, 80 bbls hams, 35 tcs grease; Bennett, Smith & Co, 1 car wheat; B H Voskamp & Co, 1008 bbls flour; T C Jenkins, 200 sks do; W Provost & Son, 1 car wheat; Alvord & Co, 29 bbls bone dust; Gordon & Mc, 4 bbls flour; J McDonald, 25 do spts; Voigt, M & Co, 2 do poultry, 1 bx do; J Protelle, 6 do pears.

Kinsman—Pgh Fire Dept, 1 car corn; S S Fridely, 1 do wheat; W J Meek, 2 do oats; S B Floyd, 1 do corn.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad.

Shoenberger & Co, 1 car staves: Burger Bros, 1 do lumber; Walker & Son, 1 case goods; P D Mann, 5 bbls sundz; J G Cochran, 1 case mdse; Head, C & Co, 1 car potatoes, 10 tubs butter; C G Fleeens, 1 bbl sugar; H Dauler & Son, 3 bbl chairs, 10 bxs tobacco, 1 do tar, 10 bbls hams; Geo A Kelly & Co, 10 cans glyc; F M Walker, 3 cars y coal; Sou, 1 car coal; Voigt, Maloof & Co, 1 car oats; Voigt, M & Co, 1 do, 1 bbl sundz, 4 tubs butter, 2 bxs eggs; P Bradley & Co, 1 car oats; Stevenson & Anderson, 20 bbls paper; Wm H Manson, 1 bbl eggs, 1 do butter; H P Evans, 40 bxs h ware; M W Socket, 2 casks ware; H M Wilson, 3 rolls oil; Jeffries, Kimball & Co, 45 bxs cheese; J H Loh & Co, 4 dress hogs, 10 bags sundz; J J Hunt & Co, 10 pkgs sundz; Bakewell, P & Co, 20 empt cars; B D Moore, 100 oil bbls; P Dicky & Co, 3 car wheels; A Allitt, 1st cinrs; R Lieber, 9 pkgs sundz; Mellor & Hoen, 8 do; Chas Shoneck & Co, 5 tubs butter, 1 bbl eggs; C M Hazel, 1 bx poultry.

Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway.

F Sellers & Co, 5 tcs shoulders; W Kringkrump, 1 box bristles; Henry Dallmyer, 102 butts tobacco; J N Rankin, 6 bxs h ware; Thompson, C & Co, 10 pkgs bacon; P Dallmyer, 8 sacks do, 6 bf butts do; Spencer, McK & Co, 18 sks bbls, 8 bf do; R A Austin & Co, 2 bbls poultry; H Miller & Son, 2 bbls f stools, 3 pocker frames, 1 do chairs; Chas Schoeneck & Co, 6 do frames, 2 do chairs; H G Stand, 4 bxs soap wrappers; F Sellers & Co, 38 tcs p hams; Knock & J, 4 bbls wheels, 2 s do; Shourds & S, 1 car h hay; A Swerdlinger, 3 bbls whisky; J Seiferth & Co, 5 do; Rea, B & Co, 5 tcs chandeliers; Palm, Lyon & Co, 4 bxs iron tanks; Carter Bros & Co, 50 bxs soap; Singer Mach Co, 1 s machine; Spencer, McKay & Co, 7 emp axle blks, 1 emp hickey, Beatty & Co, 10 tubs butter; S S Marvin & Co, 4 bxs crackers; Stewart, Eastep & Co, 90 bxs crack biscuit; J Holmes & Co, 1 car bulk bran, screenings, cornmeal in sks; F W Jenkins & Bro, 48 bbls flour, 208 sks do; Birmingham, Watson & Co, 2 bales cotton; Eagle Cotton Mills, 10 do; M J Becker, 1 bbl beef; J Rosenworthy, 1 case wood; R & W Jenkinson, 10 pails tobacco; Jones & Laughlin, 1 bx castings; C Magunn, 1 do sundries; Carter Bros & Co, 1 crate cigars; J Holmes & Co, 1 car cornmeal; F W Jenkins & Bro, 100 bbls flour; Spencer, McKay & Co, 8 emp axle cases, 3 tig do; F C Jenkins, 350 bxs soap.

Receipts of Pig Metal, Blooms and Ore.

The following are the receipts of pig metal, blooms and ore for the past twenty-four hours:

PITTSBURGH, FORT WAYNE AND CHICAGO RAILWAY.

Cars.		Cars.	
Simick & Co, m	1	Lucy Furnace, C	13
Carnegie, B & Co, m	1	Singer, N & Co, s	1
Total			38

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH RAILROAD.

Cars.		Cars.	
Sho'nb'g'r, B & Co, o	10	Cambria I Wks, m	45
Zug & Co, o	5	J McDermitt, s	1
Jones & Laughlin, o	2		
Total			58

Receipts of Coal by Allegheny Valley Railroad.

Cars.		Cars.	
N Y & G C Co	61	Armstrong, D & Co	22
Sable Coal Co	24		
Total			107

RIVER PACKETS.

BROWNSVILLE AND GENEVA.

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PITTSBURGH, BROWNSVILLE AND GENEVA PACKET CO.

LEAVES DAILY AT 8 A. M. and 4 P. M.
LEAVES BROWNSVILLE AT 8 A. M. and 12 M.

For all Points on the Monongahela River.

The 8 A. M. Packet from Pittsburgh will connect at Monongahela City with the H. I. & C. train from Pittsburgh, on Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad. The 8:00 A. M. Packet from Brownsville connects at Monongahela City with the H. I. & C. train reaching Pittsburgh at 10:50 A. M.

STEAMER GENEVA.....CAPT. M. A. COX
STEAMER ELECTOR.....CAPT. R. H. ABRAMS
STEAMER CHIEFTAIN.....CAPT. J. L. HENDRICKS
TEAMER E. BENNETT.....CAPT. P. DONALDSON

For further particulars, inquire on Wharfboat, foot of Grant street, Pittsburgh.

No freight will be received after 5 o'clock.

R. H. ABRAMS, Agent.
A. R. CARLISLE, Agent.

FROM BELLAIRE.

For Marietta, Parkersburg, Pomeroy, Gallipolis, Huntington, Ironton, Portsmouth, Maysville and Cincinnati.

LEAVES BELLAIRE EVERY TUESDAY AT 6 P. M.,

On arrival of 1:40 P. M. train from Pittsburgh.

ANDES,

CHARLES MUHLEMAN.....Master.

LEAVES BELLAIRE EVERY SATURDAY AT 6 P. M.,

On arrival of 1:40 P. M. train from Pittsburgh.

HUDSON,

WM. M. LIST.....Master.

For Marietta, Parkersburg, Pomeroy and Gallipolis.

LEAVES BELLAIRE DAILY (except Sunday) AT 1 P. M.,

On arrival of 8:15 A. M. train from Pittsburgh.

COURIER,

J. HARRISON.....Master.

EXPRESS,

A. B. BOOTH.....Master.

IRONTON.

For Parkersburg, Gallipolis and Ironton.

EVERY MONDAY—4 P. M.

THE FINE PASSENGER STEAMER

SALT VALLEY,

T. S. SANFORD.....Captain
W. A. and L. L. MADDY.....Clerks.

Will leave as announced above.

For Freight or Passage apply on Board, or to

S. R. & W. J. PATTERSON, Agents.

ZANESVILLE.

For Marietta and Zanesville.

EVERY TUESDAY—2 P.

CITY MATTERS

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV. } Room 23, First National Bank. } PITTSBURGH, PA., December 23, 1875.

Time.	Bar	Th'r.	Hum	WND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	29.891	55	73	W.	Fresh.	Fair.
2 P. M.	29.861	60	63	W.	Fresh.	Cloudy
9 P. M.	30.008	49	77	N.	Gentle	Clear.

Mean barometer...29.920 Highest thermom....60
Mean thermom.... 51 Lowest thermom....48

Call To-Day

on George W. Haslett, No. 79 Smithfield street, and make your holiday selection of jewelry, &c., &c.

Don't Forget

to call during the day or evening at the elegant saleerooms of Messrs. J. P. Smith, Son & Co., No. 189 Liberty street, and select a handsome present out of their fine assortment of Parian ware, toilet sets, vases or silver ware, the most complete line in the city.

Gas Portables.

Nothing will make a more useful and at the same time ornamental present than a nice Gas Portable. It is suitable for a lady or gentleman and is always acceptable. Messrs. J. P. Smith, Son & Co. have a well selected assortment at very low prices. Their saleroom is located directly over the new commodious store, No. 189 Liberty street, near Sixth street. Open in the evening.

The Case of Myers.

The case of Myers, the accomplice of Murray in the Wahl murder, was before the Board of Pardons on Wednesday. The prisoner was represented by W. B. Moore, Esq., of Pittsburgh, who maintained that the prisoner was intoxicated when the deed was committed; that he did not actually participate in it, and that he had been the trained tool of Murray. At the next regular meeting of the Board of Pardons will be held two days before the day fixed for the execution, the further consideration of the case was postponed until that period, when the new Attorney General will be better acquainted with the merits of the application.

'Squire Ross Vindicates Himself.

It will be remembered that 'Squire Ross, of Allegheny, had ten liquor cases before the Grand Jury of the September term, all of which were ignored and the costs put upon Mr. Ross. It was alleged by Mr. Ross that the Grand Jury was "crooked" on the whisky cases, and wickedly refused to hear the evidence that they might saddle the costs upon him. He appealed to the Court for a chance to be heard before the Grand Jury, which he was granted. The informations went before the present Grand Jury, and a true bill was found in every case. This is a complete vindication of Mr. Ross from the charge of bringing groundless prosecutions against liquor men, and a severe rebuke to the "crooked" Grand Jury.

Death of a Pittsburgher at Louisville.

The sad intelligence was received, last evening, of the death at Louisville, Ky., of Edward Everson, a young man resident of the Sixth ward, this city, and well known. Mr. Everson left home in the latter part of November on the coal packet "Mary Ann," Captain Boales, master, for Memphis. About three o'clock yesterday afternoon his family who reside on second avenue, received a dispatch from Captain Boales saying that he was dangerously ill himself while on the way up from Memphis. At about six o'clock another dispatch was received stating that he had died at five o'clock at Louisville. No particulars of the accident have been received. Mr. Everson was twenty-seven years of age and unmarried. He was a warm-hearted, clever young man and his untimely death will be mourned by a large circle of friends.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

CHRISTMAS greens are abundant.

THE public schools closed yesterday for the holidays.

SELECT COUNCIL failed to meet yesterday—a quorum not attending.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH will meet this afternoon if a quorum be obtained.

"For mercy sake, John, don't buy that boy a drum," exclaimed a little plain-faced woman to her husband in one of the Wood street stores yesterday. "He makes noise enough already."

MICHAEL SWEENY, a prominent glass manufacturer, of Wheeling, died suddenly at Marietta, Ferry, on Wednesday, where he had just about completed the erection of a new glass works.

SHERIFF DAVIS, of Warren county, Pa., recently made a demand for the body of George D. Cole, the bigamist, to Sheriff Agnew, of Joliet, Illinois. The body was refused, by order of the Judge of the county court, until the Cole case is tried here.

ABOUT six o'clock last evening fire was discovered in the barn of Mr. Whitmer, on the hill in the Thirty-fifth ward. There being no water available all the wooden structure was destroyed. The cause of the fire or the amount of the loss has not been ascertained.

WHAT to buy and where to buy it.
Is the question now-a-days.
And the best plan to solve it
Buy your goods where best it pays!

"Where is that?" you ask in wonder,
We are not so very far,
But we say, in tones of thunder,
Buy from those who advertise!

OUR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Fourth Day of the Institute—Lectures, Recitations, Music, &c., &c.

The institute reassembled yesterday morning, and the exercises was opened with a duet, delightfully rendered, by Miss Rose Weaver and Miss Lillie Smith, of the Fourth ward. Dr. French then continued his instructive lecture on "School Organization," discussing the objects of the recitation under the following heads: First, to cultivate the memories; second, to cultivate the perceptive faculties; third, the reflective faculties; fourth, attention; fifth, language constantly; sixth, grace and ease of manner; seventh, to give confidence; eighth, to stimulate clear cut thought; ninth, to impart knowledge; tenth, to develop individuality. His address was very interesting.

Another beautiful duet was rendered by Misses Weaver and Smith, entitled "The Hunters' Chorus."

Prof. Shoemaker was next introduced, and instructed the class in the rules for correct position in pronunciation. Miss Ernest, teacher of penmanship in the Fourth ward, then gave, in fine style, that favorite old piece entitled "Home, Sweet Home."

Prof. Pelton Jeffers then followed in a recitation which was well received, and Prof. Shoemaker's class responded to the roll call, showing how well they could rise up and sit down in concert. Prof. French wound up with a talk on "Physiology."

The afternoon was taken up mainly by a pronouncing contest between the teachers, the rules which, were published in yesterday's issue.

Last evening there were lectures, recitations and music, by Dr. French, Prof. Jeffers and others. The attendance was very large.

INTERESTING LECTURE TO-DAY.

The free lecture on "The Geysers and other Wonders of the Yellowstone National Park," by William I. Marshall, Esq., late of Montana Territory, announced to be given yesterday afternoon before the Institute, was postponed to nine o'clock this morning, owing to the unexpected length of the preceding contests. All who desire to hear about the marvels of that land of strange things should go early enough to have an opportunity to examine the table of geyser specimens and also the splendid photographs of water falls, mountains, hot springs canons, cataracts, etc., which hang on the walls of the First ward, Allegheny, School Hall.

The Institute closes its meeting to-day at twelve o'clock.

HOLIDAY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

FRISK AND HIS FLOCK. By Mrs. D. P. Sanford, author of "Pussy Tiptoe's Family," etc. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

It is rarely that such a delightful juvenile story is so handsomely illustrated as this one. It gives in graphic language the history of Miss Agatha's scholars and the events of their school life and other incidents of every day life, in which the house dog, "Frisk," plays a conspicuous part. The story is calculated to make young people better acquainted with God's book. The book is elegantly printed on heavy paper, charmingly and profusely illustrated, gilt edges, bound in bright blue cloth, with gold and black chasing, and an enamelled picture on the young miss. We hope the book will receive a liberal sale, as it richly deserves.

PUSSY TIP-TOE'S SERIES. By Mrs. D. P. Sanford. Author of "Frisk and His Flock," &c. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., City.

No one can read this superb book for children, especially the incorporated in the story of such salutary lessons as are found, without the help of the divine mind. The story itself is made up of a running sketch of pleasant scenes, something like a series of photographic pictures. The illustrations are very beautiful many of them full-paged. The binding is sumptuous, with brown muslin, chased in gold and black and gilt edges, and an ornamented picture of a youth in the act of snowballing. Although this book comes to hand more than two days before Christmas, we hope it may be sold largely, as it deserves. These two volumes are companionable, and we hope they may be widely sold, as they richly deserve.

THE HAVEN CHILDREN, or Frolics at the Funny Old House on Funny street. By Emily Foster. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., city.

Little folks will enjoy this *brochure* of rich and rare things. It gives all the pranks of the "Haven Family," with here and there a beautiful picture in the highest art of woodcuts. The book itself is attractive, bright and cheerful and printed on heavy toned paper. For very little people this book is just the thing and we look for a large sale. The binding, especially of the first cover-page, contains an illustrated picture of a boy and girl petting chickens. No wonder the sale of gift books during the year has been so large, as the burden of most of them has been in favor of the children. These three books are fine specimens of superior workmanship, as well as entertaining fascinating stories, and reflect much credit upon the publishers.

HUGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY; or, Stories for Every body and Everybody's Children. By the Rt. Hon. E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M. P., author of "Whispers from Fairyland." Published by J. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This collection of fairy stories, six in number, are hardly paralleled for oddness, being a blending of a species of sense and nonsense. It is well stated that ghosts, witches, dwarfs, mermaids and fairies appear everywhere to excite the interests of the little folks, while below all the wild extravagance lies a moral which is developed at the end of the story. The author is said to be a prominent statesman of England, and is wildly known in literary circles. It is said in the preface that these flights into Fairyland were taken while the author was quietly seated in the gallery of the House of Commons, awaiting the termination of speeches and the thinkin of the "Division Bell."

For Rich Bronzes

go to Messrs. J. P. Smith, Son & Co., No. 189 Liberty street, *new* Sixth, where you will find elegant assortment in the city. Open day and evening.

THE OHIO RIVER.

Meeting of the Coal Exchange and Steamboatmen's Association—Report against Improvements by Locks and Dams—Short Discussion and Report Adopted.

The Coal Exchange and Steamboatmen's Association, met yesterday afternoon at the call of the committee appointed to report on the proposed experimental improvement of the Ohio river. There were present among others the following members:

Messrs Simpson Horner, Col. H. B. Hays, George T. Miller, M. Robbins, Capt. James A. Blackmore, George Lysle, Captain J. F. Dravo, Mr. O. Barrett, B. L. Wood, Jr., Capt. Jas. Wilson, T. D. Fawcett. Gen. J. K. Moorhead, George H. Thurston and Hon. A. G. Cochran were also present.

On motion of Captain J. A. Blackmore, John F. Dravo, Esq., was called to the chair, notwithstanding the fact that he objected because he understood that the report to be presented was adverse to the improvement of the Ohio river, while he had always been identified with the project of its improvement.

On motion of Mr. Simpson Horner, Mr. George Miller was appointed Secretary.

It was announced that Col Merrill could not be present at this meeting.

Mr. Horner, from the special committee heretofore appointed presented the following:

REPORT.

On the Ohio River Navigation by the Committee appointed on that subject at the joint meeting of the Coal Exchange and the Steamboatmen's Association, held Friday, December 10, 1875.

The central situation of the Ohio Valley, its great extent, unequalled productiveness, agricultural and mineral, with its noble system of navigable rivers, have occasioned its rapid settlement and marvellous social and material progress. Its increase in much and population is without a parallel. Great cities, large manufactories, comfortable homes, and an annual commerce of many hundred millions, attest a prevailing prosperity scarcely to be found elsewhere.

It is not a century since this broad area, now occupied by millions of inhabitants blessed with all the elements of thrift, was clothed with the primitive forest, whose solitudes were only disturbed by the wandering savage. The impulse which marked the course of civilized men in taking possession and occupying this fair part of creation, were drawn by the navigable streams, which, in their natural state, offered to all men the essential benefits of free personal transit, untaxed commerce, and easy exchanges of commodities. It is to the same influence that most of the large towns, not only in this valley, but elsewhere, are situated upon the margin of navigable waters where they may possess the invaluable advantages of cheap transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF RAILROADS.

Since the introduction of railroads, which dates back but a few years, the question has been raised whether they were not destined to entirely supersede internal navigation. This has been determined by experience, which has proven, beyond controversy, that transportation by water is, and, in the nature of things, ever must remain, cheaper than by any other conceivable means where not obstructed by locks, dams, bridges or other artificial structures impeding the safety and increasing the cost of transportation. A single example puts this in an unquestionable light.

TOWBOAT AND BARGE SYSTEM OF TRANSPORTATION.

By the towboat and barge system, of such recent origin, which has matured to its present gigantic dimensions under the fostering hands of the Ohio River transporters, freights are carried from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, two thousand miles, for one dollar and eighty-four cents per ton, less than one mill per mile, and less than one tenth the railroad charges for the same service. By the same system, a reduction has been made from seventy-five cents to twenty-five cents per hundred, on freights between Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

THE ORIGIN OF THE RAILROADS.

Railroads, nevertheless, have a wide sphere of usefulness: their trains move with celerity; they save time in the transit of persons and property, and hence they carry the more precious freights, and monopolize personal travel. Their excellence in these departments of business has established the demand for single passenger and freight steamers, that, but for instead of that description of boats now appear in our harbor, where formerly the shores were lined with them.

GREAT TRANSPORTATION—ITS IMPORTANCE.

It is thus, that the natural operations of commerce, the general demands of trade and intercourse, and improvements in the method of transportation, have settled the question as to the best means of deriving the greatest benefits from the generous river that has contributed so materially to the settlement and growth, not only of the Ohio basin, but of the entire vast Valley of the Mississippi. The lowest priced intercourse and the cheapest means of connecting communities are one of the all-important economical achievements sought to be accomplished in the present day. The attention of the whole civilized world is drawn to the subject, and our own wisest practical statesmen are giving it their earnest consideration.

COMBINING TONNAGE IN FLEETS.

In our river system of combining large fleets moved and guided by single steamers an unexampled advance has been made in this direction, and the successful demonstrations presented by them, have proven conclusively that this system of transportation is the cheapest, and is the true one, far better than any other, to utilize the Ohio navigation.

CHEAPEST TRANSPORTATION IN THE WORLD.

Having thus by a gradual progress, from single steamers and floating mud-hogs, whose freights were always necessarily high-priced, reached through diligent perseverance and large expenditures, the present perfected system by which the cheapest transportation in the world is performed, it behooves the transporters to watch its interests and protect it against innovations and unreasonable as well as against tampering experiments, however well meant. The experience of the transporters assures them of the true requirements of the navigation, and of the necessity of holding intact all the advantages they now possess.

GREAT TRANSPORTATION AND ITS LAWS.

As the large fleets, convoyed by towboats, must, in the nature of things, constitute the great through lines upon the navigation, all attempted improvements of the Ohio should be so contrived as to increase their safety and expedite their voyages. This is undoubtedly the true policy in the management of our attempted river improvements, and nothing of a different character should be permitted to be done in behalf of single freight and passenger steamboats, because from natural competition their occupation in this quarter seems to be nearly gone, their business dwindled to comparative insignificance, and their numbers diminished to a small fraction of their former multitude. This decadency leads to the future no better promise than the way business between the towns and villages along the river shores, and the navigation of the streams flowing into the Ohio.

NEW PLAN FOR THE RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

Many projects for improving the river navigation have been proposed, but none of sufficient consequence to justify serious notice, except the one proposed in a series of articles, which could require a proportionate surplus fund, or $2,100,000, always on hand for probable emergencies. Let it be borne in mind, too, that this requisite surplus fund is called for out of the public treasury and in addition to the tolls.

DANGERS, ACCIDENTS AND LOSSES OCCASIONED BY BRIDGES.

6. The running of the existing bridges across the Ohio is very analogous to what the running of the contemplated chutes would be. All these structures have to be passed by day light owing to the lack of passage spans under them, and notwithstanding the utmost vigilance, a season rarely goes round without disasters by wrecks against the piers of some of them. The railroad bridge at Cincinnati, though it has a channel span of 400 feet, occasioned some heavy losses, whilst all the obstacles have been more or less disastrous to the river commerce. In the downward passage (were the dams built), when it is presumed the chutes would be open, the elevated structures to define their locality would be less conspicuous than those that indicate the situation of the bridge spans. Besides, the passage of the chutes would be more difficult to run than the bridges, the width of the passage way being about the same, from the increased velocity of the current by reason of the necessary contraction of the river by the construction of locks, piers and abutments. From the most accurate observations that have been made, it is ascertained that the bridge accidents boats and barges average one to each tow twice every season, less than one upper rigid, and less than one tenth the railroad charges for the same service. By the same system, a reduction has been made from seventy-five cents to twenty-five cents per hundred, on freights between Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

THE NEW PLAN CONSIDERED AND REJECTED.

This scheme of so-called improvement, coming from such a respectable quarter, and partially adopted by Congress, has naturally attracted much attention, and employed the anxious thoughts of all interested in the river transportation business. The undersigned have canvassed it with studious care, and with an earnestness due to the merit of a special and instant conclusions. After thus examining and weighing the subject, they have reluctantly, with all due respect and deference to the opinion of Col. Merrill, and the corresponding views of the United States' Commission, to express their unqualified dissent from the same, and their undoubting belief that this plan, if carried out, would, ultimately ruin and abandon the entire towing system now working so beneficently upon the Ohio. They have arrived at this adverse conclusion by various experiences and observations growing out of their business as transporters. Some of these they respectfully submit:

MONONGAHELA NAVIGATION.

1. There are but four locks and dams on the Monongahela, which the Ohio transporters have occasion to use; it costs one cent a bushel to pass coal through these, including towage; which amount, be it remembered, is for passing 60 miles only from Brownsville down to this city, and it costs some more to transport coal from Pittsburgh to Louisville, a distance of 600 miles, by the present towing system, notwithstanding the river between the two latter points is already obstructed by bridges, to a very serious extent increasing the cost of transportation as well as the dangers of navigation. At the same rate it would cost eight and three-fourths cents per ton, less many dollars to Cincinnati; and to get through these and the seven additional proposed dams between Cincinnati and Louisville, making 42 locks in all, the cost would be 10½ cents per bushel, or $3 15 per ton. It is scarcely necessary for us to add that the river commerce could not exist under such a heavy imposition.

CHARGES TOO HIGH TO COMPETE WITH RAILROADS.

2. Upon the grounds on the banks of the Monongahela as far as they extend, carry cheaper than the boats which ply the navigation, owing to the heavy charges of the latter. If these charges are necessary, they are a striking commentary against slack-water improvements; if they are not necessary, they should, in strict justice and sound policy, be reduced. But we are unable to perceive how this can be afforded, on account of the character and consequence of the gentleman at the head of that improvement.

ITS LIABILITY TO ACCIDENTS.

3. It is further worthy of note that scarcely a year passes without one or more of these dams getting out of order, so as to render the navigation longer or shorter periods. Apply this fact to forty-two locks and dams with complicated chutes, and how irresistible is the inference adverse to them.

EFFECTS OF THE LOCK AT LOUISVILLE.

4. The lock at Louisville affords another illustrative example. When the tows arrive there they have to await their turn, and it takes from twelve to twenty hours to make a single lockage of three boats containing two thousand tons of freight, or 60,000 bushels of coal. At a time of high water, usually very brief, when large shipments are made, there may be fifty towboats with 500 barges waiting in a row at a time, crowding on with two or three hundred thousand tons of freight, compelling an average delay to the tows. In consequence of this lock, of from one to five days. During delays the heavy expenses are most wanted to provide for, and it is thus that the loss of time occasions a large part of the expense of transportation. While the same conditions at Louisville now, at forty-two different dams between Pittsburgh and that city, the commerce now carried on by towboats would be most ruinously impeded, if not entirely blockaded,

PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT AND TOLLS REDUCED.

This lock, let it be remembered, has been purchased by the Government, and is worked by its agents. A toll of eight cents a ton on the tonnage of every boat passing the lock, additional two cents upon steamers and model barges, is charged to keep the work in repair and pay the current expenses. Five cents a ton was the first charge when the Government took possession, but being found inadequate to meet current expenses and repairs, the present rates were established. The cost of each towboat with her tow from $600 to $800 a single passage. Twenty-four men, besides four or five mechanics, are required to manage the lock. Is it probable that the proposed new locks, chutes and dams can be operated with fewer men or at less expense? or that an equal charge will not be necessary at each dam? for the whole force will have to be constantly on hand and under pay whether the chutes are up or not. But suppose the necessary charge to be but one-half, or five cents per ton on the tonnage of all the passing craft, the passage at this rate through forty-two locks would tax the towing system of navigation upon the Ohio out of existence.

MULTIPLICATION OF TOLLS.

A charge of eight cents per ton on the tonnage of descending or returning tows, though collected but one way, through forty-two locks, would amount to $3 36 per ton to Louisville, or $2 80 per ton for thirty-five boats to Cincinnati making fourteen cents added to Cincinnati, or about seventeen cents to Louisville—this too on all ordinary merchandise and freights, for lockage alone, amounts to nearly double the entire freight charges made at present, without counting the expense of frequent detentions and delays at the locks. Put both these expenses together, and they would constitute a burthen that would sink the whole river transportation business.

REMARKS ON THE MOVEABLE CHUTES.

5. It is urged by some inexpert observers, that in high water the chutes will be lowered and the tows will pass without hindrance, thus insuring a cheap and unobstructed navigation. This might occur, more or less, in the downward passage. But most of the difficulties and delays which embarrass the passage at Louisville, would have to be encountered by the returning fleets, with or without freight, owing to the short duration of the Ohio floods. But even if the water remained high, the upward-bound tow boats, with their numerous attachments, could not stand, without great difficulty, the rushing current through the chutes. This supposed high water condition, however, would be of rare occurrence to the returning fleets; usually they would find the chutes raised and the locks their only method of passing the dams, and a most tardy one it would be when from 500 to 1,000 boats and barges were on their return voyages, using the locks at every dam.

LIABILITY OF LOCKS TO GET OUT OF ORDER.

And then there is not the remotest probability that all these locks would be in order at the same time. Indeed, the probabilities are that there would be no single moment when all of them are ready for use, and where serious detentions would not arrest every passing craft. To substantiate this, we quote from Gen. Weitzel's annual report upon the improvement of the navigation at the falls of the Ohio river:

CONTINGENT FUND.

"Under this head Captain Mackenzie says the following:

"Accidents to gates and machinery are liable to occur at any time, and to provide for such a contingency, as well as put the boats, &c., in order and ready for use, a fund of not less than $50,000 is required.

"I cannot refer to and to this suggestion that it is one of the first importance. If at any time a gate would give way, or the steamer or either of the bridges would be injured, the river would either immediately or in a few days become practically useless, and the whole commerce of many hundred millions, a year, would be paralyzed. It would be such a terribly serious affair that all chance of it occuring should be guarded against."

Dangers of destructive accidents, which this experienced engineer regards as imminent, and ever liable to happen, to a single lock, are to be multiplied by forty-two in the case of the proposed river improvements, and would require a proportionate surplus fund, or $2,100,000, always on hand for probable emergencies. Let it be borne in mind, too, that this requisite surplus fund is called for out of the public treasury and in addition to the tolls.

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6. The running of the existing bridges across the Ohio is very analogous to what the running of the contemplated chutes would be. All these structures have to be passed by daylight owing to the lack of passage spans under them, and notwithstanding the utmost vigilance, a season rarely goes round without disasters by wrecks against the piers of some of them. The railroad bridge at Cincinnati, though it has a channel span of 400 feet, occasioned some heavy losses, whilst all the obstacles have been more or less disastrous to the river commerce. In the downward passage (were the dams built), when it is presumed the chutes would be open, the elevated structures to define their locality would be less conspicuous than those that indicate the situation of the bridge spans. Besides, the passage of the chutes would be more difficult to run than the bridges, the width of the passage way being about the same, from the increased velocity of the current by reason of the necessary contraction of the river by the construction of locks, piers and abutments. From the most accurate observations that have been made, it is ascertained that the bridge accidents boats and barges average one to each tow twice every season, less than one upper rigid, and less than one tenth the railroad charges for the same service. By the same system, a reduction has been made from seventy-five cents to twenty-five cents per hundred, on freights between Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

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THE ONLY REALLY USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS.

In conclusion the committee are of the opinion, from the best lights that they have shed upon the subject, and from all the experience that has been gained in the practical operations of the towboat system since its beginning, that the best method of improving the Ohio river would be to keep it nearly to its unobstructed normal condition—removing wrecks, snags and other obstructions,—to place no new impediments in the waters greater too much, and at the head of some of the islands, to turn the water and increase its depth on the channel side—to require chanel spans of 500 feet length in all the bridges crossing the river and to insist upon the immediate alteration in this length of the water-way under the bridge at Steubenville, pronounced by the United States' Commissioners the worst one and the most serious obstruction to navigation now existing on the river,—to recommend carefully the passage of the ice in ripples, so as not to injure the navigation by draining down the pools above,—to take effectual measures in the selection of the proper site for the formation of thick ice would compose an almost irresistible dam, and a loss of many days, when joined by the massive broken gorges from the Allegheny and precipitated against the dam with the force of a mountain torrent of a spring freshet. In such an event, the sudden clearing out of the dam, by blasting, and chute could be made perfectly tight, so as to hold the water at a level not much higher than its natural level, would it not, in very dry seasons, when the volume of water from above is insufficient to produce a sufficient flow, become a foul, stagnant pool, poisoned by the city drainage, and breeding with its waters pestilences, and generating offensive insects and noisome odors?

OTHER DANGERS TO BE APPREHENDED FROM IT.

Again, suppose such a dam with its complex accessories were erected, and were, from any cause, to get out of order in any of its parts, when a considerable number of the immense tonnage of Pittsburgh were quietly moored or lying at anchor in the harbor, awaiting a return for the downward voyage and some waiting for freight; and then, at such a moment, by an unavoidable accident, a gate was found wanting for the instant, a derangement in the operation of the chute or lock, or a flood passed by the dam were to suddenly drawn off! what no time would be left to seek security or to change moorings, and then would follow the dam? Would not a large portion of this valuable craft, steamers, barges and boats be crushed and destroyed, and all resting upon and even bottom, and rendered entirely worthless? There is no disputing the assertion that all slackwater dams are liable to frequent mishaps, and to conditions rendering the passage of their navigation unsafe. How much more liable to such disastrous mischances would the dams proposed by Colonel Merrill be, with their intricate chute constitutes that part of it where the most resisting strength is required,

OTHER OBJECTIONS TO IT.

Among the other numerous objections to this projected dam, is the obstacle it would constitute to the passage of ice, which would, do not usually come back until the river has subsided below the running level for heavily laden boats. Then the channel is shallowed and the lock would be the only passage-way left, making the Louisville lock be an exception of the kind to necessarily consumed in locking through the river craft, what would be the effect of such a delay upon the long and heavily laden fleets, consisting of a thousand boats and barges (not an unlikely event) when it is remembered that the United States' Commissioners report 3,000 such? The whole mooring shores in the harbor would not afford room enough for them to wait their turns. Then how would they ever get back against the forty-two dams erected?

THE DAM REGARDED AS UNWORTHY OF A TEST.

The truth is, that on a careful review of this scheme, we cannot but reject it, nor do we regard it deserving a trial, from the want, in addition of sufficient gravity to justify it experimental outlay at all. That it would, if adopted, destroy the towboat and barge system of transportation, is quite certain; and as heavy investments have been made in that system, and as it has been proven to be by far the best system for securing to the country the greatest benefits that can be derived from the navigation of the Ohio, the committee are earnest in their recommendation that the proposed experimental dam be entirely abandoned.

THE ONLY REALLY USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS.

In conclusion the committee are of the opinion, from the best lights that they have shed upon the subject, and from all the experience that has been gained in the practical operations of the towboat system since its beginning, that the best method of improving the Ohio river would be to keep it nearly to its unobstructed normal condition—removing wrecks, snags and other obstructions,—to place no new impediments in the waters greater too much, and at the head of some of the islands, to turn the water and increase its depth on the channel side—to require chanel spans of 500 feet length in all the bridges crossing the river and to insist upon the immediate alteration in this length of the water-way under the bridge at Steubenville, pronounced by the United States' Commissioners the worst one and the most serious obstruction to navigation now existing on the river,—to recommend carefully the passage of the ice in ripples, so as not to injure the navigation by draining down the pools above,—to take effectual measures in the selection of the proper site for the formation of thick ice would compose an almost irresistible dam, and a loss of many days, when joined by the massive broken gorges from the Allegheny and precipitated against the dam with the force of a mountain torrent of a spring freshet. In such an event, the sudden clearing out of the dam, by blasting, and chute could be made perfectly tight, so as to hold the water at a level not much higher than its natural level, would it not, in very dry seasons, when the volume of water from above is insufficient to produce a sufficient flow, become a foul, stagnant pool, poisoned by the city drainage, and breeding with its waters pestilences, and generating offensive insects and noisome odors?

OTHER DANGERS TO BE APPREHENDED FROM IT.

Again, suppose such a dam with its complex accessories were erected, and were, from any cause, to get out of order in any of its parts, when a considerable number of the immense tonnage of Pittsburgh were quietly moored or lying at anchor in the harbor, awaiting a return for the downward voyage and some waiting for freight; and then, at such a moment, by an unavoidable accident, a gate was found wanting for the instant, a derangement in the operation of the chute or lock, or a flood passed by the dam were to suddenly drawn off! what no time would be left to seek security or to change moorings, and then would follow the dam? Would not a large portion of this valuable craft, steamers, barges and boats be crushed and destroyed, and all resting upon and even bottom, and rendered entirely worthless? There is no disputing the assertion that all slackwater dams are liable to frequent mishaps, and to conditions rendering the passage of their navigation unsafe. How much more liable to such disastrous mischances would the dams proposed by Colonel Merrill be, with their intricate chute constitutes that part of it where the most resisting strength is required,

OTHER OBJECTIONS TO IT.

Among the other numerous objections to this projected dam, is the obstacle it would constitute to the passage of ice, which would, do not usually come back until the river has subsided below the running level for heavily laden boats. Then the channel is shallowed and the lock would be the only passage-way left, making the Louisville lock be an exception of the kind to necessarily consumed in locking through the river craft, what would be the effect of such a delay upon the long and heavily laden fleets, consisting of a thousand boats and barges (not an unlikely event) when it is remembered that the United States' Commissioners report 3,000 such? The whole mooring shores in the harbor would not afford room enough for them to wait their turns. Then how would they ever get back against the forty-two dams erected?

THE DAM REGARDED AS UNWORTHY OF A TEST.

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